



Iranian judge executed for bribery

TEHRAN (R) — An Iranian judge in the northeastern city of Mashhad has been executed for accepting bribes, a government lawyer said in an interview. It is believed to be the first execution for such an offence in Iran. Ruhollah Hosseini, deputy prosecutor in an often secretive special court which deals with offences by Iran's Muslim clergy, also disclosed that his court was handling the case of an unnamed member of parliament accused of financial corruption. "Recently a bribe-taking judge in Mashhad was ruled (by the court) to be a corrupter on earth and was executed," Mr. Hosseini said in an interview published in Kayhan newspaper. He did not name the judge or give any other details. Iranian law sets the death penalty for a range of economic offences if committed with the intention of subverting the Islamic system.

Jordan Times

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جوردان تلغز يومية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

Summit to be held in Damascus — Sharaa

BEIRUT (R) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa said in an interview published Friday that a summit meeting of five Arab leaders concerned with the proposed Middle East peace conference would be held in Damascus soon. Interviewed in Washington by Beirut's Al Safir newspaper, Mr. Sharaa said the meeting would coordinate stands before the start of the U.S.-Soviet sponsored conference expected later this month. The foreign ministers of Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan and Palestinian representatives would hold talks if the leaders failed to meet, he added. Mr. Sharaa said Syrian President Hafez Al Assad had discussed Arab coordination with his Egyptian counterpart Hosni Mubarak and King Hussein.

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Reshuffle — a triumph for Masri

'Cabinet to be more concrete, cohesive' after change

By Nermeen Masri
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The prime minister, Taher Masri, scored a major political triumph Thursday after winning a new mandate for his government by carrying out a reshuffle in which five new ministers were appointed to replace resigning cabinet members.

The limited reshuffle had been one of several options contemplated by the Jordanian leadership to avert a political crisis over the Kingdom's participation in Middle East peace talks.

Among the other options envisaged was the appointment of a new prime minister and government to prepare Jordan for the talks, which are expected to be held late this month.

During the past week, the fu-

ture of the Masri government had hung in the balance as top-level consultations centred on whether "reorganising the Jordanian house" ahead of Arab-Israeli negotiations could be best done by replacing four ministers who had resigned from the cabinet or whether the situation required an altogether new administration headed by a new prime minister.

"The debate was not concluded until Thursday, when Mr. Masri was asked to stay on as prime minister and replace those ministers who wanted to step down (their number had by then risen to five as Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensour also expressed his wish to resign)," a well-informed source said.

"It was a tense week, but things should get better now since the new team should present a

stronger front to face both the domestic and negotiations' challenges," the source added.

The reshuffle was quickly criticised by some Jordanian politicians as lacking in depth (since the 18-member Constitution Bloc was not included in it as was widely expected or potentially problematical for the prime minister (since Dr. Ensour, who commands respect in the premier's own parliamentary bloc and in the House generally, should have been retained)).

But a senior cabinet source dismissed the criticism by saying that the incorporation of the Constitution Bloc might have created more problems than it could have solved and that those ministers/deputies who have left the cabinet will not necessarily oppose it.

While the source confirmed that consideration was given to incorporating members of the Constitution Bloc into the cabinet this time around "it was decided that the time was not opportune for complete government restructuring along the traditional lines." Furthermore, the source continued, everybody in the Constitution Bloc, which is headed by Thaqan Hindawi, might have not been pleased by the appointment of one or more of his colleagues and not himself or others who are close to him. "It is not as if the Constitution Bloc is as organised and homogeneous as the Muslim Brotherhood group," he explained.

The senior Cabinet official, however, maintained that Mr.

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Taher Masri

Two ex-ministers, three new faces in reshuffled cabinet

AMMAN (J.T.) — The reshuffle on Thursday was the first in the cabinet of Prime Minister Taher Masri since it was formed June 19 — 106 days ago.

Of the new ministers, two have served previously as ministers. Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber has served as minister of the national economy in 1973. Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Qaseem Obaidat served as labour minister in Mudar Badran's cabinet, which left office on June 19.

The other three are appointed ministers for the first time.

Three ministers who are deputies — Dr. Abdullah Ensour, Salim Zoubi, and Mohammad Fares Al Tarawneh — resigned and one deputy — Mr. Obaidat — was appointed

minister. With the new appointments, the post of the Kingdom's general mufti, which was occupied by Sheikh Izzeddine Al Khatib, is now vacant. Sheikh Khatib was appointed as minister of awqaf and Islamic affairs.

The post of Irbid mayor is also vacant after the appointment of Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat as minister of municipal and rural affairs and the environment.

Dr. Ensour was appointed foreign minister while abroad in China in his capacity as deputy and resigned while also being abroad. Dr. Ensour is leading Jordan's delegation to the meetings of the U.N. General Assembly.

For the first time, one minister —

Khaled Karaki — holds the portfolios of higher education and culture at the same time. Dr. Karaki was minister of culture and information before the reshuffle.

Mahmoud Sharif, chief editor of the Arabic-language daily Al Dustour, became minister of information in the reshuffle.

Three ministers are now abroad on official missions. Labour Minister Abdul Karim Dughni is in Libya, Public Works and Housing Minister Saad Hayel Surour is in Turkey, and Health Minister Mamdouh Abbadi is in Tunis. Mr. Dughni returns home Saturday; Dr. Abbadi on Thursday.

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Kamel Abu Jaber



Qaseem Obaidat



Izzeddine Al Khatib



Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat



Mahmoud Al Sharif

Five new ministers join Masri government

AMMAN (J.T.) — Following are the profiles of the ministers who joined Prime Minister Taher Masri's government in Thursday's reshuffle:

Foreign Minister Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber
Dr. Abu Jaber was born at Yadoudeh on the outskirts of Amman in 1932. He completed his secondary school education at the Bishop's School in Amman before travelling to the United States where he studied at Syracuse University in New York and obtained a bachelor degree in political science. In 1965 he obtained a doctorate degree in political science from the same university. He went to Princeton for post doctorate studies. Dr.

Abu Jaber taught at a number of American universities, and in 1969 he joined the University of Jordan before becoming minister of national economy in 1973. Dr. Abu Jaber returned to teaching at the University of Jordan in 1974 and became dean of the faculty of economy and administrative sciences. Later he was appointed as executive director of the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund and then chairman of the World Affairs Council. He is a member of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature. Dr. Abu Jaber, has written many books, on political issues, is a prominent columnist who had written for many newspapers including the Jordan Times. He is married with two daughters.

Minister of State Dr. Qaseem Obaidat

Born at Kufar Soum in 1935, Dr. Obaidat studied in Jordan and later obtained a bachelor degree in medicine from Yugoslavia and became a cardiologist. He won a seat in the Lower House of Parliament in the latest parliamentary election in 1989 representing the constituency of Ramtha in north Jordan. Dr. Obaidat served as minister of labour in the government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran.

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Izzeddine Al Khatib Al Tamimi

Born in Hebron on the occupied

West Bank in 1928, Sheikh Tamimi studied in Hebron and then went to Cairo where he obtained a bachelor degree from Al Azhar University in Islamic law. He then worked as a teacher and later as director of the preaching department at the Ministry of Awqaf and also undersecretary of the same ministry before being appointed to the post of dean of Al Quds College. Before the reshuffle Mr. Tamimi had been serving as the Kingdom's mufti. He has many works in Islamic education.

Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat

Dr. Tubeishat was born near

Irbid in 1939 and later obtained a bachelor degree in medicine from Istanbul University before practising medicine with the Jordanian Armed Forces and later as public health doctor for Irbid Municipality for eight years. Later he opened his own clinic in Irbid and served as Irbid mayor until his new appointment.

Minister of Information Mahmoud Al Sharif

Mr. Sharif was born in 1925 and obtained his bachelor degree in English literature from Cairo University in 1947. He later pursued his higher studies in media affairs in New York. Mr. Sharif

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Accord with IMF to be announced today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government is expected to announce Saturday an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) involving a series of austerity measures aimed at reducing the fiscal budget deficit and clearing the way for the economic restructuring programme hampered by the Gulf crisis.

The envisaged measures are believed to include hikes in several areas, including fuel prices and long-distance telephone charges.

The measures were recommended by a delegation representing the IMF which, along with a team of World Bank representatives, held talks with Jordanian officials over the past three weeks.

The recommendations also include removal of subsidies on foodstuff, municipal water and several other areas as well as an increase in cost of services such as power supply and various measures to reduce government expenditure.

The government and the visiting delegation have concluded what was described as "a memorandum of understanding" or a "letter of intent" and Finance Minister Basel Jaradneh is expected to announce it Saturday, sources said.

The Kingdom needs an IMF agreement to reopen talks with the Paris Club of official creditors on rescheduling its share of its \$8 billion foreign debt and cutting interest payments. Agreement must be approved by the government and the IMF board of directors before a final agreement aimed for by the end of the year.

A diplomat told Reuters Jordanian officials had been forced to deal with issues they believed had been taken off the agenda because of the devastating effect of the Gulf crisis.

Food subsidies this year have been estimated to cost about JD72 million, about half of it spent on bread.

A government study estimates that the influx of returnees from the Gulf will cost it an extra \$4.5 billion over the next five years.

The government estimated its 1991 budget deficit at JD357 million dinars and is now finalising a 1992 budget which is expected to show a deficit increase.

Washington, which recently agreed to resume about \$50 million a year of aid to Jordan frozen during the Gulf war, has agreed to push for favourable rescheduling terms from the Paris Club, diplomats quoted by Reuters said.

Jordan, PLO discuss peace parley team

By Lami K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have started talks over the formation of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Middle East conference which is supposed to convene late this month, according to Jordanian and Palestinian sources.

The sources, however, said that the two sides are still trying to reach agreement or common understanding regarding the terms of Palestinian participation.

The talks, which started on Thursday night, followed a decision by the Palestine National Council (PNC) to authorise Palestinian participation in the peace process and a limited reshuffle in the cabinet of Prime Minister Taher Masri.

According to the PNC declaration, the PLO leadership will give its final decision on Palestinian participation at the suggested conference in the light of "objectives" that have to be achieved prior to the convening of the parley.

PLO officials have repeatedly said that the organisation accepts the formation of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation provided the terms of Palestinian participation were viewed as adequate.

On Friday Palestinian officials told the Jordan Times that the organisation was hoping that Jor-

dan would agree to the terms for Palestinian participation as outlined by the PNC.

The PNC has demanded that the PLO appoint the Palestinian delegates and determined the Palestinian negotiating position throughout the peace talks.

Jordan's new foreign minister, Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber who was appointed Thursday, told the Jordan Times that the PLO delegation presented a briefing on the outcome of the PNC meeting and discussed various issues related to the peace process but did not go into specifics.

New Information Minister Mahmoud Sharif, who was also named Thursday and attended the meetings with the PLO team, said that in addition to outlining the results of the PNC meeting the PLO delegation had also discussed "the shape of the political solution" hoped to be achieved through the proposed peace conference.

Another senior source said the talks went very well and that "Jordan and the Palestinian side made major progress".

But, added the source, "there are issues that have to be settled between the PLO and the U.S. administration and therefore some issues have to wait until Washington and the PLO sort out the outstanding topics."

Jordan has said on different occasions that it would accept the PLO choice and that Jordan would not talk on behalf of the Palestinians at the conference.

Dr. Abu Jaber stressed that Jordan was keen on ensuring the participation of all of the major parties involved at the peace parley.

Jordan's position towards the peace process is positive. (It is based

(Continued on page 5)

Bush: Prospects not firm for peace conference this month

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. President George Bush said Friday that U.S. diplomatic efforts have not yet reached the point where Arab-Israeli peace talks can be staged this month.

"A lot depends on what happens in the next couple of weeks," Mr. Bush said at a White House news conference.

He was responding to a report from Paris that peace talks could begin this month.

Mr. Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said in July they intended to issue invitations for a peace conference in October.

"There are no preparations in the sense of logistics for that, that I know of. No dates have been set. A lot depends on what happens in the next couple of weeks as to whether such a conference will take place at that time," Mr. Bush said Friday.

He was asked about a report quoting French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas as saying the peace conference would open at month's end somewhere in Europe.

"It sounded to me a little more firm than where we are right now," Mr. Bush said of that report.

A major stumbling block to a general conference among Israel, various Arab states and Palestinians is a dispute over Palestinian representation at such a parley.

war last March to lay the groundwork for such a conference. He is expected to return to the region soon.

Another diversion has been a bitter conflict between the United States and Israel over Mr. Bush's determination to delay congressional consideration of an Israeli request for a \$10 billion loan guarantee until January. He fears it might become an impediment to the peace process because of potential Arab resentment.

Asked whether his position had harmed the peace process by making it appear he was taking sides against Israel, Mr. Bush denied it and defended his stand.

"I think it (speaking the delay) was the right thing to do," he said. "It's not prejudging or getting on one side or another of this ageless dispute."

According to Mr. Dumas, invitations to the peace conference signed by the United States and the Soviet Union would be sent by mid-October.

The European Community (EC) would be represented at the conference by Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Portugal — the past, current and next holders of the EC presidency. The EC is not involved in sponsoring the conference.

Mr. Dumas said the venue would be a European city — but not Geneva.

Earlier Friday, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said the chances for convening a Middle East peace conference at the end

of this month were good but obstacles remained.

"The prime minister assessed the chances for the opening meeting of direct negotiations at the end of the month as very good but there are still several problems such as composition of the Palestinian-Jordanian delegation," Mr. Shamir's office said in a statement.

According to the communiqué, Mr. Shamir told the officials of the Agudat Israel Party that despite Israel's differences of views with Washington, "good relations would continue."

Mr. Shamir said Syria has objected to going along with Israel's idea of discussing "regional issues" before the case of the Golan is decided. But he gave no indication of whether this demand would delay the start of peace talks.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said the peace conference would be held at the end of this month.

Mr. Mubarak said it was still uncertain where the conference would be held.

Washington, Cairo and Geneva, Switzerland have been suggested, but Israel was reported to object to the Egyptian capital and the Soviets were said to be against Washington.

"The Middle East peace conference will be held toward the end of October," Mr. Mubarak told newspaper editors Friday on a flight home from a two-day visit to Saudi Arabia.

Israel plans more settlements in Jerusalem

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Israeli housing ministry wants to build more than 4,000 homes for Jews in the heart of Arab East Jerusalem as part of a secret master plan for the Eastern sector of the city, an Israeli newspaper said Friday.

The weekly Kol Ha'ir said it obtained details of the plan that the ministry is devising through a Jewish settler group, Ateret Cohanim. The newspaper ran a map with the planned construction sites on its front page.

Housing ministry spokesman Shaya Segal said in a statement released through his office that "our ministry doesn't know about such a programme." He was not available for questions.

But Omer Yekutieli, a liberal city council member, said he warned last month that Housing Minister Ariel Sharon and Ateret Cohanim were working on a massive construction plan for East Jerusalem.

The Kol Ha'ir report comes at a time when the United States is trying to bring Israel, the Palestinians and Arab states to a peace conference in which the future of Jerusalem would be a key issue.

Israel media also reported the government plans to build three new settlements in the occupied West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golan Heights as the United States is trying to convince Israel to halt such settlement building.

Hanna Siniora, a leading Palestinian from Jerusalem, responding to the Kol Ha'ir report, said that "it is clear evidence that the Israeli government is working

to destroy the peace process."

Jerusalem's Israeli mayor, Teddy Kolek, said in a statement Friday that such widespread construction in the Arab sector would "sabotage our ability to win the world's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel."

In the past, Mr. Kolek has objected to settling Jews in Arab areas of Jerusalem. Mr. Kolek's spokeswoman Bonnie Boxer said the mayor has not seen Mr. Sharon's master plan, nor was it discussed by the city council.

Mr. Yekutieli said he had warned Mr. Kolek of Mr. Sharon's plan last month. "I didn't have the documents at the time, and Mr. Kolek's response was that the city has hardly any influence over this anyway," he said.

Ateret Cohanim and other settler groups want to increase the Jewish presence in Arab areas of the ancient walled city of Jerusalem.

Historically, there was an unwritten understanding which barred Arabs from living in the Jewish quarter and Jews from Arab neighbourhoods.

Israel has settled some 120,000 Jews in and around Arab East Jerusalem, including some 4,000 people in the renovated Jewish quarter of the Old City.

Ateret Cohanim members in Jerusalem's Old City have also seized an Arab-owned house next to the Al Aqsa Mosque — Islam's third holiest shrine, Palestinians said.

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'U.N. team has proof of Iraqi nuclear arms'

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — A senior United Nations envoy said Friday a fact-finding mission which was blocked in a Baghdad car park for four days had uncovered proof that Iraq was developing nuclear arms.

Rolf Ekens, chairman of a U.N. commission charged with scrapping Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, was speaking after arriving in Baghdad for two days of talks with Iraqi authorities on the findings of the mission.

"It appears clear there will be proof that Iraq had a nuclear weapons development programme going," Mr. Ekens told reporters.

Mr. Ekens said analysis of the group's findings would "take a long time," but a preliminary report was to be sent to Vienna, base of the International Atomic Energy Authority (IAEA), and U.N. headquarters, Friday.

Iraq has so far denied developing nuclear weapons and says that its research was for peaceful purposes.

Mr. Ekens said he was hoping for an Iraqi admission that it was working on a nuclear arms programme but he did not know if he would be meeting President Saddam Hussein.

Iraqi authorities refused to let the U.N. team leave the car

park with documents and videos it had seized until the Security Council worked out a compromise under which the paperwork and photos were catalogued.

In London, the Financial Times newspaper quoted U.N. sources as saying Iraq was only 18 months away from developing a nuclear weapon.

It also quoted an unnamed U.N. official as saying the documents collected in Iraq contained "the names of just about every European and U.S. electronics and engineering company."

"The walls of the rooms in Iraq's atomic energy headquarters were lined with glossy brochures from the lot of them," the official said.

Mr. Ekens denied reports in the Iraqi media that the head of the U.N. nuclear weapons inspection team, David Kay, had been rebuked by Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar for sending his findings to the U.S. State Department in Washington.

"Mr. Kay was leader of the team which carried out important and professional work. No rebuke has happened," he said.

Iraq has branded Mr. Kay an American spy and the media has carried several attacks on him

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Kuwait's no-expulsion pledge could mean little

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A recent Kuwaiti pledge to a United Nations agency that the emirate would not carry out a summary expulsion of Palestinians remaining there could be meaningless if the expatriates were not allowed to work there, according to highly informed sources.

Efforts are under way to ensure that the expatriates will not face a de facto expulsion as a result of difficult living conditions, unemployment and denial of access to education in Kuwait for their children, the sources said.

"What is the meaning of the pledge if the expatriates are not given jobs and are discriminated against and their children not allowed to enrol in schools?" asked a senior source.

The Kuwaiti promise was given to Uter Turkmen, head of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine refugees, who visited the emirate in mid-September.

Mr. Turkmen was quoted as saying after talks with Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, the Kuwaiti crown prince and prime minister, that "the Kuwaiti government realizes that the Palestinians have nowhere to go. They will not be forced to leave. This has been clearly pointed out."

While Mr. Turkmen was also assured that "there will be no limitations on the employment of Palestinians in the private sector in Kuwait," the actual situation is totally different," said the source.

"Apparently, the Kuwaiti interpretation of the pledge of non-expulsion does not include any undertaking that the employment contracts of the Palestinians will be renewed and they will be given work permits," said the source.

Furthermore, added the

source who preferred anonymity, there is no indication that the Kuwaiti authorities would allow the children of the expatriates to enrol in schools in the emirate.

"The only commitment made by the Kuwaitis is that they will not expel the expatriates when the temporary residence permits granted to them expire in mid-November," the source said.

Expatriate sources said the Kuwaiti government had asked most expatriates, regardless of nationality, to provide fresh information to the emirate's immigration authorities so that their work and residence permits could be streamlined. Palestinians have also been asked to furnish the details, but the move could mean very little since most of them are unemployed and could not produce documents from Kuwaiti "sponsors."

Under a series of new measures adopted by the Kuwaiti government, all expatriates whose visas were granted after July 25 must leave the emirate and can return on new permits. Defaulters face a fine of 10 Kuwaiti dinars per day of "overstay."

Those possessing visas issued between Feb. 26 and July 25 will be immediately granted residence permits.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs has taken over the process of granting residence permits to private sector employees from the immigration department, but has not actually started issuing the documents.

Immediately after the liberation of the emirate in February following a seven-month Iraqi occupation, the Kuwaiti government issued temporary six-month residence permits to expatriates who remained there during the crisis. However, hundreds of thousands of Palestinian and Jordanian expatriates were forced to leave the emirate in the face of arbit-

rary Kuwaiti measures.

While most expatriates targeted by the Kuwaitis have somewhere to return, Gazans holding Egyptian travel documents have nowhere to go since the Egyptian government is applying a policy of selective honouring of their papers and other countries do not accept them at all.

"The Egyptian government has requested the Kuwaiti authorities allow the Gazans to continue to work in the emirate," said another source. "The Kuwaiti government has not made a definite commitment yet, but has said it might consider individual cases," according to the source, who also requested anonymity.

The Kuwaiti moves against Palestinians and Jordanians as well as Sudanese and Yemenis come in retaliation for what the Kuwaitis perceive as pro-Iraqi stand of these expatriates and their governments.

Hundreds of thousands of Jordanians and Palestinians have already left Kuwait. Some of them left during the Gulf crisis and the subsequent war while others were expelled by the Kuwaitis, who subjected them to torture, arbitrary detention and constant humiliation. Many others opted to leave in the face of termination of contracts and denial of admission for their children in Kuwaiti schools.

Hundreds of others have been killed and buried in mass graves in Kuwait, according to independent human rights organisations.

While the inflow of expatriates from Kuwait aboard chartered flights to Amman has ebbed, there is a steady trickle across the border through Iraq.

"There appears to be little perceptible change in the de facto Kuwaiti policy of expulsion," said a senior official at an international relief agency in Amman.

U.S. wants Zionism resolution repealed this year

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Assistant Secretary of State John Bolton told Jewish leaders Thursday that the U.S. government will press for repeal of the U.N. resolution equating Zionism with racism by the end of the year, Jewish groups reported.

Mr. Bolton, who oversees international organisation affairs, said in a speech that there has been an "outpouring of support" in the General Assembly to repudiate the 1975 resolution which Israel asserts is a stain on the credibility of the United Nations.

"He told us the intention is to repeal the resolution by December," said Elan Steinberg, executive director of the World Jewish Congress. Mr. Bolton addressed a meeting of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish organisations.

"It is our intention to do so at this session," Mr. Bolton was quoted as saying in a press release by the conference.

In his speech on Sept. 23 President George Bush called on the General Assembly to repeal the resolution which calls Zionism, the movement to build a Jewish homeland, a kind of racism which, like apartheid, dehumanises people.

According to the statement by the conference, Mr. Bolton said there is no fixed schedule for the move to repeal and said procedural and tactical questions must be resolved first.

The speech was closed to reporters, Mr. Bolton could not be reached for comment and the State Department had no immediate reaction to reports from Jewish groups.

The resolution was adopted Nov. 10, 1975, by a vote of 72 to 35, with 32 abstentions in the 142-member assembly.

Mr. Steinberg said that today there would be a comfortable majority, at least 84 votes, in the 166-nation assembly to repudiate the measure. Virtually all former Communist nations which voted for the resolution in 1975 have stated publicly or privately that they now oppose it. Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin called for repeal of the measure, which he called a "legacy of the past."

Many Latin American countries which had voted for the measure, like Brazil and Mexico, now oppose it. Mr. Steinberg said, although few commented in their assembly speeches, Brazil, he said, agreed to cosponsor the resolution for repeal, along with Poland, which also supported it in 1975, he said.

However, Egypt and other Arab states are opposed to raising the issue before a Mideast peace conference begins this fall and some Arab diplomats say the resolution should stand until there is a comprehensive Mideast peace settlement. Arab diplomats said that Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon agreed that they should postpone any efforts to revive the issue.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa privately told his Israeli counterpart, David Levy, Thursday that Egypt now thinks the old resolution is wrong and misguided. Israeli diplomats said. He said it could be reconsidered later, perhaps in two or three months after a conference is underway, the Israeli diplomats told reporters.

But Mr. Musa has declined to say publicly whether he supports repeal and said only that the issue should not be raised at this time because a divisive, volatile debate could taint the atmosphere before a Mideast peace conference this fall.

Morocco: Guerrillas must disarm before Sahara vote

RABAT (R) — Moroccan Interior Minister Driss Bassi has said Polisario guerrillas can return to Western Sahara to vote in a United Nations referendum but must leave their arms outside the territory.

In a statement in Laayoun, the main town in the former Spanish colony, he said Morocco "is ready to welcome its sons from the Tindouf camps to take part in the referendum," the official news agency MAP reported Friday.

Polisario guerrillas have their main bases in the Algerian oasis town of Tindouf where they say there are also over 141,000 refugees from Western Sahara.

"Those who wish to return to take part in the referendum must lay down their arms outside Morocco's frontiers," Mr. Bassi said at a meeting in Laayoun attended by seven cabinet ministers.

MAP said the ministers went to Laayoun Thursday on instructions from King Hassan to "prepare the referendum... and welcome Saharan citizens from all parts of the kingdom who have come to rejoin their brethren."

The agency did not say how many Saharans had moved into the territory from Morocco. The government has said there are 120,000 Saharan refugees in Morocco eligible to vote in the referendum.

According to the Polisario in statements published in Algeria, Morocco moved 30,000 people into the territory recently in an attempt to pad out the electoral rolls.

After proclaiming a ceasefire on Sept. 6, the United Nations plans a referendum early next year to let the people who choose either independence as demanded by Polisario or union with Morocco which controls most of the territory.

Diplomats said Morocco had told the U.N. peace-keeping mission it was prepared to send all the refugees into the territory to facilitate the task of the identification commission entrusted with drawing up a list of voters.

Israel has rejected such positions in the past.

"The Holy See sees these problems as difficulties (blocking) the start of diplomatic relations with the state of Israel," Cardinal Sodano said in the interview with DW.

He said the Vatican hoped the obstacles could be overcome or that Israel would show a willingness to begin what he called "a concrete process for their solution."

"Obviously, the state of things does not facilitate, for now, the scheduling of a visit by the Pope to the Holy Land," he said.

Jews have often urged the Pope to establish diplomatic relations between the Vatican and Israel and to visit the Jewish state. The Pope has said he wants to visit the Holy Land to pray for Middle East peace together with Jews and Muslims.

The Vatican recognises Israel's right to exist within secure borders but wants solutions to the problems Cardinal Sodano listed before establishing diplomatic links.

Cardinal Sodano said Jerusalem, which Israel claims as its "united and eternal capital," needed an "internationally guaranteed statute" protecting it as a unique city of peace revered by Christians, Muslims and Jews.

Cardinal Sodano said the Vatican wanted a just solution to the Palestinian issue, international protection for Jerusalem as a city sacred to the three great monotheistic religions, and guarantees for holy places elsewhere in Israel.

The section of the interview dedicated to Israel was one of the most comprehensive and detailed statements to date of the Vatican's position on the Jewish state.

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MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Bahrain says dispute application postponed

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain said Friday the International Court of Justice in the Hague had postponed until next year consideration of an application by Qatar on the long-running territorial dispute between the two Gulf states. "At a hearing with the president of the International Court of Justice on Oct. 2 in the Hague, it was agreed that the matter of the court's jurisdiction to consider the unilateral application by the State of Qatar should be dealt with in a separate application by the State of Qatar," a Foreign Ministry statement said. "During the coming year," a Foreign Ministry statement said, "the court will consider the application to delay consideration of the Qatar officials said the court planned to delay consideration of the application — made on July 8 — for about six months. This would give Qatar time to reconsider and submit a joint application with Bahrain in line with normal procedures. Bahrain has called for both sides to agree on an application with the help of Saudi mediation. Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal went to Qatar and Bahrain last week in an effort to put an end to a tit-for-tat series of provocations and accusations. King Fahd also signalled during a cabinet meeting Monday that he opposed further escalation in the dispute which centres on a cluster of small but potentially oil and gas-rich islands, reefs and sandbars. Riyadh has been mediating since 1986, when helicopter-borne Qatari troops landed on a disputed reef between the two states and arrested 29 foreign workers building a coastguard station for Bahrain.

Tehran told embassies to destroy files

LONDON (R) — An Iranian opposition newspaper said Thursday that Iran had ordered its embassies, consulates, banks and airline offices abroad to destroy any files on Iranian opposition members that could prove compromising. The weekly Kayhan of London, published by Iranian exiles, said the order came from President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. The newspaper said the move followed the arrest in Paris of Iran Air's head of security there in connection with the murder of former Iranian Prime Minister Shapur Bakhtiar. Comment from the Iranian embassy in London, said not immediately be obtained and an employee at Iran Air's London office said: "This is the first I've heard of it." Kayhan said a number of diplomatic missions, banks and airline offices had been used as espionage centres often run by members of Iran's secret service. It said the circular ordered the "immediate destruction of all compromising documents particularly those dealing with the activities of Iranians abroad." French police arrested the Iranian airline employee, who was not identified, Wednesday for questioning in connection with the Aug. 8 murder of Mr. Bakhtiar at his home in Paris. Mr. Bakhtiar, condemned to death by Iran after its 1979 revolution, was found with his throat slit. French investigators say they suspect the killing was ordered by Iranian authorities but Tehran has denied this.

Former minister acquitted in Sudan trial

KHARTOUM (R) — A politician and an army officer have been acquitted for lack of evidence in a Sudan treason trial, state-run television reported. They were the first verdicts announced from the trial which began last month. The defendants, accused of an August plot to overthrow the ruling junta, include civilians and at least six active or retired officers. The number has not been announced. Figures published abroad range from 15 to 70. The acquitted politician was Dr. Ahmad Bilal, minister of state for health in the government which Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Beshir's junta overthrew in 1989. The officer released was not named in the television report, broadcast Thursday night.

Mitsotakis to attend funeral in Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Greek Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis will travel to Turkey Tuesday to attend the funeral of Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios, a Greek embassy official said. The one-day stay in Istanbul could produce a meeting with Turkish leaders to discuss bilateral relations and the problem of Cyprus, the official added. "The Greek side believes it is possible for Prime Minister Mitsotakis to meet President Turgut Ozal or Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz if either leader is in Istanbul then," he said. "The meeting will be welcome for the Greek side." A Turkish Foreign Ministry source said they had received no formal information on the Greek leader's visit but a meeting with Mr. Mitsotakis could be possible. Patriarch Dimitrios, 77 and the spiritual leader of the world's 250 million Greek Orthodox Christians, died Wednesday of heart failure. Neither Mr. Ozal nor Mr. Yilmaz will attend the funeral. Turkey will be represented by the governor of Istanbul, its largest city.

France negotiating for use of Kuwaiti bases

PARIS (R) — France, a key player in the Gulf war, is discussing a defence cooperation accord with Kuwait that would enable it to stock arms and use military bases in the Gulf state, according to the Kuwaiti ambassador to Paris. Ambassador Tarek Razouqi said the proposal to give France use of facilities in Kuwait was similar to accords already reached with Washington and under discussion with Britain. "These three countries have presented their wish to participate in the security of Kuwait and the region in case of danger," he told reporters. "France is studying a proposal in this direction. I think it will give them the same access as the Americans. The United States was the first to suggest this and it was accepted willingly by Kuwait. Then the other (Western allies) raised it and Kuwait welcomed the idea with joy." He said Western troops would help train the Kuwaiti armed forces and could stock arms and use two air bases and a naval base. No Western troops would be permanently based in Kuwait. Mr. Razouqi said Kuwait sought three levels of security — a joint armed force of the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states based near the Saudi and Kuwaiti borders with Iraq, as mutual defence pact among the GCC, Egypt and Syria, and a role for the Western allies.

French families demand compensation

PARIS (R) — Sixty-eight French families, claiming they were ruined by the Gulf war, asked President Francois Mitterrand Thursday to press the emirate's visiting leader for compensation. Their lawyer Yves-Eric Massiani said Kuwait had failed to honour a pledge to compensate the 300 French citizens, who are asking for 45 million francs (\$8.5 million) for property lost or damaged during the crisis. Kuwait's Emir Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah was due to meet Mr. Mitterrand Friday on his first visit to France since the Gulf crisis. "Kuwait

Soviets lift key Afghan hurdle

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Soviet Union has apparently dropped its insistence that President Najibullah of Afghanistan be part of any transition government before elections are organised, according to diplomats.

But they cautioned that Moscow is not sacrificing its protégé unconditionally or preparing for his exile.

"They want stability on their borders and they don't want extremists running the government," one envoy said.

"They will accept almost any type of government as long as it is peaceful and does not complicate their political life even more."

Soviet officials would say only that they would support a government acceptable to the Afghan people.

One Soviet source told Reuters Mr. Najibullah was not about to disappear into a dacha in the Crimea.

"He is a reality and a lot of people in the Kabul government have some sound ideas in their mind on how to solve this crisis," the source said.

U.N. officials said they were increasing the momentum on negotiations to solve Afghanistan's 13-year-old civil war with a variety of meetings that include the rebel Mujahedeen.

"This flurry of activity is because we think it is time to move

on Afghanistan," said one U.N. official involved in the talks.

Senior U.S. and Soviet envoys met Benon Sevan, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's point man on Afghanistan, Thursday and a Mujahedeen delegation was meeting the secretary-general and Mr. Sevan Friday.

Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin shortly before he left New York Tuesday discussed various scenarios with Mujahedeen guerrilla groups, including the fate of Soviet prisoners of war.

In 1979, the Soviet Union sent tens of thousands of soldiers to Afghanistan to prop up a leftist government sympathetic to Moscow. It withdrew its forces 10 years later after 13,000 Soviet servicemen lost their lives.

A Mujahedeen delegation expects to go to Moscow later this month to continue the discussions. The badly-fractured Afghan opposition has insisted that Mr. Najibullah must leave his post before the civil war can end.

In Islamabad, rebel sources said Mr. Pankin proposed that Prime Minister Fazl Haq Khalilzay stay in a transition government in Kabul while the Mujahedeen took over the presidency or former King Zahir Shah returned from exile in Rome.



Najibullah

But diplomats denied this was a proposal under discussion.

The failed coup in Moscow in August swept away many of the hardliners who had sustained Mr. Najibullah with almost unlimited amounts of fuel, food and weapons.

Then last month Moscow and Washington agreed to cut off all weapons supplies to the warring sides by Jan. 1, injecting new urgency into the peace process.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Le Chevalier de Labyrinth
18:30 Les Chavalières du Ciel
19:00 News in French
19:15 Documentary
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Totally Hidden VI
21:00 Encounter
21:30 Classical Music
22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature film

PRAYER TIMES

04:10 Fajr
05:27 Sunrise
11:24 Dhuhr
14:45 Asr
17:21 Maghrib
18:38 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632285
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772611
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
American International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811285
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623624, 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A depression centred south of Turkey affects the Kingdom Saturday. Therefore, a drop in temperatures will occur, clouds will increase gradually and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain. Winds will be southwesterly fresh.

In Amman, it will be dusty and partly cloudy. Winds will be westerly moderate to fresh and seas rough.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammad Azzam 819925
Dr. Fakhri Abu Tayeh 883880
Dr. Farooq Huseini 786080
Dr. Issam Al Amer 892004
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nasrallah pharmacy 623672
Al Salem pharmacy 696720
Yasoon pharmacy 644945
Shuqman pharmacy 637660

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 17 / 26
Aqaba 22 / 33
Deraa 15 / 29
Jordan Valley 23 / 34

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 31, Aqaba 32. Humidity readings: Amman 35 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

EMERGENCY
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 199
Police 192, 661111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 603000
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone

REPAIRS
Dr. Al Shugairi (—)
Dr. Al Shugairi (—)
Khalid's pharmacy 985417

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642412
Mother, J. Amn. 636140
Palestine, Shuqman 664171/4
Shuqman Hospital 669313
University Hospital 845945
Al-Munasher Hospital 667279
The Islamic, Abdus 664170/7
Al-Ahli, Abdus 664170/7
Indian, Al-Muhajirah 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 777101/3
Army, Marja 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674153
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 698333

REPAIRS
Abdull Telephone Repairs 623101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 771111
Water Authority 660100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 63681
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

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REPAIRS
Dr

Soviet ship arrives at Aqaba after 6-day delay

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Soviet freighter carrying military cargo for Jordan docked at Aqaba early Friday after a six-day delay involving an interception by the American-led naval task force monitoring the international sanctions against Iraq and subsequent clearance to proceed to the Red Sea port.

The Akademik Millionshchikov was blocked from entering the Gulf of Aqaba waters Sunday by the American frigate USS Truett, but was cleared to continue its voyage to Aqaba Thursday.

First accounts of the interception said the Truett, one of the several warships patrolling the Red Sea to enforce the embargo on Iraq, ordered the Soviet freighter turned away when a boarding party found it was carrying "military cargo not listed in the manifest" and suspected that the goods could be destined for Iraq.

But subsequent reports said the order came after it was found that documents related to the cargo were in Russian and the inspectors demanded that they be translated into English.

Jordanian sources confirmed the second version of the incident and said the Millionshchikov was sailing from the Soviet port of Nikolayev.

It was not immediately known whether the demand for the documents to be translated to English was met, but informed sources confirmed that the clearance was given to

the ship after "high-level" contacts between Jordan and the U.S.

Jordan turned to the Soviet Union to meet part of its defence needs after the U.S. Congress reversed a 28-year-old policy and turned down a major arms package for the Kingdom in 1986.

Mohammad Smadi, head of the Ports Corporation, said in a statement Thursday that the Millionshchikov was carrying "military equipment ordered by the Jordan Armed Forces" and was given clearance to dock at Aqaba.

Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Friday that the cargo was "defensive equipment sent by the Jordan Armed Forces to the Soviet Union for adjustments."

It was the second time the Millionshchikov was intercepted by the enforcers of the sanctions against Iraq.

According to statistics released by the U.S. navy, since the sanctions were imposed on Iraq on Aug. 6, 1990 — four days after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait — the naval task force have intercepted 11,705 merchant ships, boarded 2,348 and turned away 139 (the number of those "turned away" does not include those ordered to unload "suspect cargo" elsewhere in Red Sea ports).

Expectations after the Gulf war that the blockade would be eased proved to be ill-founded. A U.S. navy spokesman was recently quoted as saying that despite the end of

the war the number of interceptions has not decreased. If anything, the enforcement measures were tightened and the frequency of interceptions has gone up "simply because shippers are feeling more comfortable with sailing to this part of the world while insurance rates are going down."

In the past three months alone, more than 1,700 ships were intercepted, 650 were boarded and at least 30 blocked from proceeding to Aqaba.

The stringent enforcement of the blockade has caused severe hardships for Jordanian businessmen who have been paying additional costs for transshipment and industrialists whose productions schedules were thrown into disarray because of delays in getting raw materials.

According to U.S. Coast Guard Captain Edmund Kiley, the coordinator of the interception force, "this is not an embargo against Jordan."

"But Jordan is the only transshipment point for goods going to or coming from Iraq that is open now," Capt. Kiley was quoted as saying.

Jordanian and American officials are engaged in contacts aimed at easing the blockade to ensure that Jordan-bound goods are not intercepted or diverted to other ports. But shipping sources and businessmen say that very little progress has actually been achieved in alleviating the difficulties they encounter in shipping through Aqaba despite American expressions of sympathy and understanding.

Health minister intervenes in row between Islamic Hospital, Khasawneh



Yousef Khasawneh

said that any surgeon registered at and licensed by the JMA board has the right to admit his patients to any hospital and can be prevented from doing that only by a decision by the board of the JMA.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Health Minister Mamdouh Al Abbadi has sent a memo to the Islamic Hospital-Director Ali Hawamdeh, asking him to freeze a decision by the administration of the hospital dismissing Dr. Yousef Khasawneh from his work and preventing him from admitting any cases or conducting operations in the hospital.

The memo, dated Oct. 1, 1991, called on Dr. Hawamdeh to provide the minister with a detailed report on the hospital administration's reservations about Dr. Khasawneh's "technical and administrative practices which led the hospital to take the decision."

Dr. Khasawneh, a renowned surgeon and member of the Lower House of Parliament, was dismissed of his duties at the hospital following a Friday sermon he delivered at the hospital's mosque. In his sermon, Dr. Khasawneh attacked the administrative systems in the Kingdom, including that of the Islamic Hospital, according to reports in the press.

Dr. Abbadi's memo, which was in reply to a complaint filed against the hospital by Dr. Khasawneh, was based on article 42 of the hospital's system No. 85 for the year 1980 and came in accordance with the regulations of the law which stipulate that no one should be punished unless proven guilty after the required investigation. It also followed a recommendation sent to the minister by the hospital's committee on Sept. 28.

Jordan Medical Association (JMA) President Ishaq Maraqa has sent a memo to Dr. Abbadi containing Dr. Khasawneh's complaint as well as Dr. Hawamdeh's reply.

Dr. Maraqa said there was a conviction by the association's board that the hospital's decision and measures contained libel against Dr. Khasawneh. He asked the minister to investigate the issue and take the necessary measures, taking into account that "the association's files contain no complaints against Dr. Khasawneh in respect to practicing his profession."

A letter sent by chairman of the Jordanian Surgical Society

Mediati, a Syrian Orthodox from Damascus. She added that she also found she had much in common with the people she met.

The programme will include a reverse trip of 12 Indians who will visit these six countries sometime in 1992 to learn about the people and the countries in the Middle East. This visit will also be sponsored by MECC.

MECC was heavily involved in the repatriation of the Asian and African evacuees in the fall of 1990. They are still involved in alleviating the sufferings of the Iraqi people by means of supplying them with material aid and medicines, as well as extending food aid and in cash assistance to hundreds of families among the returnees.

Ministry introduces civics, military training for students

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education has introduced civics and military education into government and private schools curricula and the courses will commence on Oct. 10, according to Minister of Education Eid Dahiyat.

The minister made the announcement at a meeting with the directors of education in the various governorates, the commander of the People's Army and representatives of the Civil Defence and the Public Security Departments which will be involved in implementing the new curricula.

The programme, to be implemented for the first time in Jordan, is designed to create balanced personalities among the students of Jordanian schools, providing them with ample background about the country, its history, leadership and policies, the minister said at the meeting.

Dr. Dahiyat urged the directors of education in various areas to implement the new programme in its letter and spirit for its vital importance for children.

He said that the programme will be applied to male and

female students of the first secondary class (11th grade) whose promotion to the second secondary class will depend on their passing the civics and military education examinations.

Those who take the courses and pass the examinations will be exempted from serving in the People's Army once they enter university or college, the minister pointed out.

At least 40,000 students will have to take the new nine-week courses in accordance with the new arrangements, with the male students taking their courses each Thursday as of Oct. 10, while the females starting their course in the second term of the current scholastic year.

Courses under the new programme include military training and lessons in history and geography as well as the Palestine question and Israel's threats, and special focus on the country's main problems like unemployment, water shortages, pollution and others.

The minister was quoted by Al Ra'i Arabic daily as saying that as of the coming 1992 summer holidays, the ministry will revive the Al Hussein summer camps that were abandoned in 1962.

Council of Churches organises young people exchange visits

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) office in Amman has drawn up plans for exchanges of visits by young people from the Middle East on the one hand and other countries of the world on the other. Young Jordanians will be involved in the programme, according to a MECC statement.

The statement said that a group of 12 young community activists from Jordan, Syria, Turkey, Lebanon, Palestine and Egypt have just concluded a two-week trip to south India where they visited local communities in Lotian, Bagalor and Madras.

This is a pilot programme sponsored by the MECC's ecumenical travel office and one of its purposes is to provide opportunities to Christians from the Middle East to travel outside the region for contacts with other churches and people of other cultures, the statement said.

It said that the next step would be to carry out such programme on inter-faith basis.

"This was a very important experience in my life, because I only understood the cultures and traditions of one place, Syria, and now I am beginning to look outside and to have an appreciation of the challenges and traditions of another people," said Muna

EC grants Jordan JD3.7 million for water resources research

AMMAN (J.T.) — An agreement granting Jordan 4 million ECU (JD 3.7 million) to investigate water resources in the Hamad and Sirhan Basins was signed at the Ministry of Planning Thursday between Minister of Planning Dr. Ziad Fariz and the Head of the European Communities Delegation in Amman, Ambassador Christian D. Falkowski.

The grant financing of 4 million ECU will be provided from funds from the Third Financial Protocol to the EC-Jordan Cooperation Agreement signed in 1977.

The project will be executed over a period of four years, and aims at carrying out a comprehensive hydrological survey of upper and medium level water areas and identification of exploitable water resources. The project will also include a drilling programme.

With the signing of this agreement, the European Community has, under the Third Financial Protocol, provided grants totalling 10 million ECU for water resources investigations and studies and design of water infrastructures.

CPF holds charity walk

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cerebral Palsy Foundation (CPF) will hold a charity walk on Oct. 11 in Amman under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, according to a CPF statement.

The walk will commence at 10 a.m. at the Amman Marriott Hotel. According to the statement the proceeds will be used to

finance a pilot project of a school for special education for cerebral palsy children in Jordan.

The CPF has been holding a number of activities over the past years in order to raise funds for an estimated 10,000 Jordanian children with cerebral palsy cases.

Out of that number, only 4,500

children are being accorded assistance due to shortages in funds and facilities, CPF President Fakhri Bilbeisi said.

He said that the campaigns aim at raising funds from organisations, institutions and private citizens to extend help to the unfortunate children.

AMERICAN PRESIDENT LINES

APL now links Aqaba to its network

American President Lines has a long history as a transportation leader in the Gulf region. Two decades ago we pioneered containerisation to the area, and in the mid-1980's launched a regular weekly service to the Gulf. We are furthering our commitment to the region by offering services to Aqaba, linking Aqaba to the rest of the Middle East, India, the Far East and other major markets world wide. Let the recognised leader in containerised transportation meet your shipping needs - call APL.



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Tlx: 24567 DIANA JO

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Tlx: 47445 MDFRT

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

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Putting the house in order

THE FIRST reshuffle in the cabinet of Prime Minister Taher Masri involving five portfolios aims first and foremost to end the paralysis that has afflicted the government ever since talk of an impending change started two weeks ago, but more importantly it is intended to consolidate cabinet ranks on the eve of the prospective peace talks on the Arab-Israeli conflict. It is an open secret that the Masri government had been a coalition of various political figures that sang different tunes not only vis-a-vis peace talks but also with regard to several domestic issues. The end result has been a futile attempt to reconcile the irreconcilable among the cabinet members who often gave vivid expression to such division by threatening to resign at every turn or juncture. So on the plus side of the ledger, the reshuffled government should no longer be a divided house unable to speak and think on one wavelength.

On the surface, the Masri cabinet has been somewhat weakened by the departure of three cabinet ministers who were also key members of the Lower House of Parliament. By having three votes less in any parliamentary showdown in the future, the government's strength will be decreased accordingly. The shakeup has also revealed that there is considerable internal bickering and divisions between the political parties that have joined the Masri government in the first place. With some members of the principal political parties in the government and others from the same party fighting it, the stage is set for some additional problems to arise. What can make the situation worse is that all these recent events are taking place at a time when Parliament is not in session. The elected representatives of the people are thus denied an opportunity to debate and reflect on the implications of the recent changes in the incumbent government.

On balance, however, the prime minister had no choice but to put his house in order in anticipation of the peace parley on the Middle East. There will be an occasion for parliament to deliberate the issue of war and peace at the end of the tunnel. No one is seriously entertaining the thought of ramming the results of the projected peace negotiations down the throat of the people or their elected representatives.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily voiced bitterness at the current moves in the United Nations designed to cancel a General Assembly resolution equating Zionism with racism. When the General Assembly took its decision, the U.N. member countries were convinced of the fact that Israel practices racism against the Arab population of Palestine which it occupies by force, said the paper. Therefore, cancelling or keeping this resolution does by no means remove the stigma from Israel, neither does a cancellation help brighten Israel's image before the world, the paper said. The paper said that it is not surprising to see the United States, which continues to support Israel and condone its terrorist actions, spearheading efforts to cancel the General Assembly's resolution because the United States has proved that it holds complete hegemony over the United Nations organisation dealing with it as if it was an American department. By seeking to abrogate the resolution, Washington is trying to succeed in this effort, nothing can change the facts on ground because Israel will remain in the eyes of the world a racist entity, and one whose leaders' hands are stained with the blood of innocent people, the paper added. It said that observers believe that the United States, the sole superpower in the world, can now impose its will on other nations, in a manner to serve its own interests and those of its allies and stooges. It said that the cancellation of the General Assembly resolution can by no means change the fact that the Israeli entity is an outlaw and a criminal, committing atrocities in order to survive.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily praised a decision by the minister of education to introduce civics and military education into the school curricula describing it as a brave and very sensible decision. Fakhr Kassar said that the decision also entails involving the school students in the activities of Al Hussein summer camps which the ministry is now reviving. Such a move on the part of the Ministry of Education is bound to cause interaction between the schools and the local community which is very beneficial for the development of students' personalities and for offering service to the community, said the writer. Kassar voiced hope that Jordanian university students would also be involved in a similar task by touring the rural regions trying to identify the problems of the local community and means of promoting socio-economic development in the country. We want the Ministry of Education and the universities to open the eyes of the new generation to the facts of life and the problems the country is facing so that real change can come about in the future, said the writer. However, Kassar expressed apprehension that the new courses might be mishandled if unqualified persons take charge of them. He said that should that happen, the ministry's decision would not only backfire but might cause further frustration among the public with regard to the educational system of the country.

Spreading the lie: A view from Latin America

By John Ross & Norman Solomon

The following is the third in a 4-part series of a working paper presented at the International Seminar on News Coverage During the Time of War: Objectivity and the Role of Journalists, held in Amman, Sept 28-30, 1991. John Ross, Pacific News Service and San Francisco Examiner correspondent in Latin America, has covered guerrilla wars in the Andes and social conflicts in Central America and Mexico. He recently returned from a human rights fact-finding tour of Kuwait. Norman Solomon coordinates the peace desk for the media watch group FAIR, based in New York City.

FOREIGN correspondent John Ross was stationed in Latin America during the build-up to war in the Gulf. He reported from Mexico City:

"From August to January, Latin Americans saw the build-up as a distant event in a far-off land with little impact on their daily lives. With its worldwide reach, CNN brought the invasion of Kuwait and subsequent international manoeuvring home through satellite feeds to private and government broadcasting networks throughout the Southern Hemisphere. Print media relied heavily on Western agencies, with the pro-U.S. press lining up behind Washington's United Nations coalition and the left digging in to defend the Third World against President George Bush's New World Order. But poised as they were on the extreme periphery of the coming war, Latin Americans audited events in the Gulf as if they were watching a spectator sport far removed from daily reality. The World Cup had more resonance.

"One noticeable aspect of the reportage reaching Latin America, as the war rolled up to the starting gate, was the perception that Iraq was a major military menace to world peace and security. One example: The Mexico-based Televisa Corporation, the

largest media conglomerate in the developing world with feeds to all Spanish-speaking countries, quickly placed a TV team in Tel Aviv and, thereafter, its daily news round-up from the Middle East tilted precipitously towards the damage President Saddam Hussein would inflict upon Israel once the shooting began. One correspondent, Eric Wexler, began each broadcast by putting on her gas mask. Print and electronic media never tired of touting the dangers of the poison gas and nuclear warheads Mr. Saddam Hussein was about to rain down on humanity. The much-repeated factoid that the Iraqi army was the fourth largest in the world seemed to gladden the hearts of those spilling for a good fight. By Christmas, the newsmen on Mexico City's Reforma Boulevard were hawking headlines about the War That Would End The World! Even in distant, dusty villages that television had just begun to penetrate, the war had become a palpable fear.

"Looking back upon the hysteria that gripped Mexico on the eve of war, one has the queasy sensation that the military threat Mr. Saddam Hussein presented to world peace was deliberately overblown so that Iraq might be elevated to the status of an appropriate contender for the

U.S.-led display of technological destruction that soon dominated the TV screens of Latin America. Without the demonisation of Mr. Saddam Hussein as a new Hitler and the premeditated miscalculation of Iraqi military strength conveyed by the long arms of CNN and Televisa, the war would have been seen from Latin America as just one more brutal Yanqui takeover of a sovereign southern nation.

"As the Jan. 15th U.N.-imposed deadline approached, a fresh sense of dread gripped the Mexican capital with thousands encamped before the U.S. embassy, demanding a peaceful resolution to the conflict. The gathering and similar mass protests throughout Latin America and the developing world went generally unreported in the U.S. press.

"The Jan. 16th bombing of Baghdad that ignited the pyrotechnics, achieved one of the largest television audiences ever sampled in Mexico. CNN's spectacular on-the-scene coverage brought the event home to remote farmhouses and urban slums, mesmerising Mexican viewers for months. Never before had that nation been so riveted to world events and all of it being delivered with a heavy Washington spin. The conflict in the Gulf clearly signalled that a new world media order was in the making. Such a development is a necessary corollary to the Washington-imposed conception of a new world political order."

The lies become bombs

From the first bombardment of Baghdad, news accounts of the continuous bombing attacks on

Iraq took on an abstract, sanitised quality. TV news focused on Gulf events with lenses controlled entirely by the Pentagon. Correspondents mouthed the euphemistic language of the military. The human impacts were rarely mentioned.

The most powerful news media — key TV and radio networks, news weeklies, the New York Times and Washington Post and major wire services — fell into lockstep, vying with each other only as to who could paint the news frame a brighter red, white and blue. While major news institutions gripped about Pentagon censorship that delayed transmissions by hours, they voluntarily maintained their own gag rules. "Our job is to prevent security leaks in an era of instant communication," Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Colin Powell instructed media executives (New York Times, May 5). Under the guise of national security, the masters of war enjoyed a virtual stranglehold on information flowing from the Gulf.

The government's press restrictions and the mass media's overall pro-war gloss prevented people all over the U.S. from encountering human realities, other than their own, during the war. The continual slaughter of Iraqi soldiers and civilians with high-tech weaponry was reported as abstract "news." Air Force officers, shown in pool video interviews, described the bombing runs, in computer terms. "I just see blips on the screen," said one returning pilot.

Accounts routinely referred to "the enemy" without a hint of human identity. One TV network described Iraqi soldiers as re-

sembling "cockroaches" from the air (London Independent, Feb. 5, 1991). At the start of February, the New York Times published an unusually large cartoon across the top of op-ed page entitled "The Descent of Man." It showed a Clark Gable-like man in suit-and-tie, then a chimpanzee, then a monkey, a venomous snake, and finally, Mr. Saddam Hussein.

As Lee and Solomon note in Unreliable Sources: "Shirking any pretense of objectivity, network correspondents were quick to take sides. 'We've destroyed half the Iraqi Air force,' announced Bob Schieffer on CBS. The network's anchor emeritus Walter Cronkite chimed in: 'We knocked one of their Scuds out of the sky.' Even Peter Arnett, CNN's controversial correspondent who reported from Iraq during the war, betrayed his sympathies when, peering out of his hotel window in Baghdad, he commented on the first night of the bombing as helicopters buzzed by: 'Are those our choppers or their choppers?' Mr. Arnett wasn't referring to CNN helicopters; he was identifying with 'our' side, the U.S. side.

"Journalists no doubt harboured strong feelings about the war. That's to be expected. But as media professionals they should report on their government, not speak for it. The frequent use of the words 'we' and 'our' when describing U.S. military attacks against Iraq underscored one of the main failings of American journalism: Reporters, far from being too 'liberal' or adversarial, are too close to power."

"Throughout the war, journalists fawned over the military's

techno-prowess. Censored news accounts hyped the success of U.S. weaponry. Charles Osgood described the bombing of Iraq as 'a marvel.' His CBS colleague Jim Stewart extolled 'two days of almost perfect perfect assaults.' Of course, the Pentagon released footage that showed only hits, not misses, and U.S. journalists... filed their reports accordingly." After the war, government records revealed that 70 per cent of all the tonnage dropped on Iraq and Kuwait did not strike the intended targets.

"Amidst all the high-tech hoopla, a significant conflict of interest went unnoticed: American news media are sponsored, underwritten, and in some cases directly owned by major military contractors. Moreover, the boards of directors of nearly every major U.S. media corporation include representatives from 'defence' contractors, forming a powerful military-industrial-media complex which compromises the integrity of American journalism.

"NBC, for example, is owned by General Electric (GE), one of America's biggest military contractors. GE, it turns out, designed, manufactured or supplied parts of maintenance for nearly every major weapon system employed by the U.S. during the Gulf war — including the Patriot and Tomahawk Cruise missiles, the Stealth bomber, the B-52 bomber, the AWACS plane, and the NAVSTAR spy satellite system. In other words, when correspondents and paid consultants on NBC television praised the performance of U.S. weapons, they were extolling equipment made by GE, the corporation that pays their salaries."

Islamic fundamentalists tighten grip on Gaza

By Robert Mahoney
Reuter

GAZA — If Abu Abid sees a woman without a veil or a "pornographic" film at a video rental shop in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip he reports it to his superiors.

The 21-year-old Palestinian does his job well. He is a member of Hamas, the outlawed Islamic resistance movement, which is thriving among the dust-brown refugee camps and decaying towns of the Gaza Strip.

An uncovered female head is as rare as a day without clashes between Arabs and Israeli soldiers. Alcohol disappeared long ago from even below the counter in shops and restaurants, although it is still sold by Arabs in East Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank.

Attendance has soared at mos-

ques which have become a focus of Palestinian resistance to Israel's 24-year-old military occupation of this strip of Mediterranean coast.

Hamas, which means zeal in Arabic, claims more than half of Gaza's 750,000 people favour its ideal of an Islamic state in Gaza and eventually in all of pre-1948 Palestine which includes Israel. It is overshadowed by PLO groups in the West Bank but even the Israeli army estimates its support at 30 per cent in Gaza.

Abu Abid (a pseudonym) has thrown paint at women who have ignored his "advice" to wear a headscarf. But he does not see his attempts to impose Islamic Sharia law as merely an end in itself but a means of fighting Israel.

"The discipline of Islam will make it easier to resist the occupation," Abu Abid said. "By adopting Sharia we can conquer

... God will be with us."

Young men like Abu Abid have flocked to Hamas since the uprising or intifada against Israel erupted in December 1987. Their existence is testimony to the back-firing of an Israeli strategy a decade ago to weaken the mainly secular Palestine Liberation Organisation by allowing Muslim activists to flourish.

In Gaza, Hamas has now turned into a Frankenstein for Israel, according to Palestinians. Despite more than 600 arrests in a crackdown late last year the tightly-knit group has bounced back.

"I can't say the crackdown did not hurt us, it cut our links. But our network is back together and even stronger," said another activist identified as Abu Haider.

The group has claimed responsibility for killing Jews and Arabs suspected of collaborating with

Israel.

Much of its work does not grab headlines in the way violence does. Yet the evidence of its influence and that of other Islamic groups is on every street.

"We burned the video shop on Palestine street," said one slogan scrawled in red on a wall in Gaza City recently and signed "the vice squad."

The shop, which rented films that would not raise an eyebrow in the West or much of Asia, had fallen foul of anonymous arbiters of Islamic taste. Several other video shops have been torched. Other graffiti warns students not to attend language classes at the British and French cultural centres in Gaza.

"In those classes women wear make-up take off the veil," said Abu Haider. "There is corruption there."

Students at the British Council

said they would ignore the warn-

ing. Abu Abid said graffiti and leaflets were the first weapons in Hamas's fight for Sharia conformity.

"If a woman continues to go unveiled we send letters to her and her family," he said. "If she continues to flaunt herself we use physical means."

These have ranged from beatings to burning with acid for prostitutes.

Abu Abid seeks to justify such action by saying "moral weakness" such as prostitution or drug-taking leads to collaboration in his eyes one of the greatest wrongs an Arab can do.

More than 800 Palestinians have been killed by fellow Arabs as suspected collaborators during the intifada.

Hamas has long targeted drug dealers and addicts whom it says

are easily blackmailed into becoming Israeli informers. Last month it intensified its campaign of leaflets and graffiti warning against collaboration.

The latest leaflet told men to prevent women from going to hairdressing salons because they were run by collaborators.

For the first time Hamas has also taken to theatre to get its message across. Actors played to houses of up to 3,000 worshippers in mosques during September celebrations of the Prophet Mohammad's birthday.

Young activists portrayed an Israeli Shin Bet secret police officer complete with almost caricatured black curly hair, Ray Ban sunglasses, gold chain and jeans turning a drug addict into an informer by supplying him with cocaine. Another play showed how to resist Israeli interrogation methods.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Yes to peace talks: A victory of reason over extremism

JORDANIAN newspapers over the past week dwelt on the outcome of the Palestine National Council (PNC) meetings in Algiers, the Middle East peace process and a number of domestic issues.

The PNC announced its endorsement of the U.S. plan, but has made it clear that the Palestinians can by no means abandon their rights, said Samih Maaita in Sawt Al Shaab daily. Had the PNC refused the plan, it would have caused further complications in the current drive to find a just and lasting settlement to the Palestine problem, said the writer.

Columnist Mousa Kilani writing in Al Dustour criticised the voices coming out from Arab countries expressing their opposition to the PNC decision. The writer said that the PNC leaders had come to the conclusion of accepting the U.S. peace plan after due consideration and after thoroughly studying the situation and all the circumstances in the region. He said that non-Palestinian voices opposing the PNC decision have no right to act for the Palestinians or to oppose the decision of those who have all the right to deal with their own affairs by themselves.

Mohammad Kawash said in Al Dustour that the Palestinians do not have the military power to achieve victory over Israel and liberate their lands, but they have all the right in their homeland. If Washington is serious about its plans and about the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolu-

tions, it should stop talking to the Palestinians from behind closed doors and should embark on a courageous step aimed at removing all obstacles to the conference, said the writer.

Al Dustour said in the editorial that Jordan has welcomed the PNC decision and opened the door for talks aimed at forming a joint delegation to the peace conference. The paper said that the Jordanians and the Palestinians are now called on to embark on serious efforts to find a formula that would ensure the success of their endeavour.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily welcomed the PNC decision and said that it was a victory of reason and realism over extremism which would not achieve anything. Salameh Ekour said that no Arab country had said "no" to the U.S. peace plan and that if the Palestinians had said "no", the other Arabs would have gone to the conference without them.

The PNC took a very wise decision after full examination of the situation and, at the same time reaffirmed the Palestinians' rights which can by no means be ignored.

Turning to the peace process, Al Ra'i daily said in its editorial that the United States, which has spearheaded efforts to achieve peace, should help eliminate the Israeli nuclear arsenal which threatens peace in the region.

Washington should think about the prospect of scrapping the nuclear weapons so that the Middle East can remain a

nuclear-free zone and an oasis of peace and stability, the paper said. Clearing the region of nuclear and other mass destruction weapons, said the paper, would enhance the peace process and boost U.S. credibility worldwide.

Sawt Al Shaab said in the editorial that Moscow and Washington, the co-sponsors of the proposed peace conference, should not allow Israel to lay obstacles in the path of peace.

The paper said that the world is opposed to Israel's settlement policy and the United States has displayed total opposition to its continuation, and therefore the U.S. and the Soviet Union should halt the settlement programme to pave the ground for a successful peace conference.

Mousa Subeithi, a columnist in Al Dustour, cast a gloomy picture resulting from the peace conference. The writer said that the peace conference would not implement resolutions 242 and 338 as the Arabs hope and would not give the Palestinians their full rights as being demanded by the PLO.

He said that the peace conference can only lead to open political and trade relations between the Arabs and Israel and would achieve the dream of world Zionism. He said that the peace conference would grant Israel a land without people and would allow it to impose its hegemony on the Arab World.

A columnist in Al Dustour lamented the disarray in the ranks of the Arab countries on the eve of the peace conference.

Fakhr Saleh said that Arab leaders have not yet agreed on sitting at one table to discuss a very important issue that would determine the Arab region's future for a long time to come.

The Gulf war, which divided the Arab countries, should not stand in the way of the joint Arab stand vis-a-vis the Palestinian question, said the writer.

A writer in Al Dustour noted that the delay of the opening of Parliament's new session is clearly intended to allow for more time for the government to deal with the peace process.

The writer said that the Parliament should be active and the deputies should be aware of every step in this process. He said that the Israeli government can by no means take any decision of this serious nature unless it acquires the support and blessing of the Israeli parliament, the Knesset. It is democratic to involve Jordan in the peace process without involving the Parliament in the final decisions, the writer asked.

Taher Al Udwan, who writes for Al Dustour, said that two years of democracy have elapsed and Parliament members have not yet achieved their demands and did not honour their commitments. The writer said that the Parliament has not yet succeeded in abrogating the martial law and did nothing to deal very efficiently with the question of senior officials' abuse of administrative or financial matters.

LETTERS

40 years of U.S. aid

To the Editor:

THE UNITED States and Jordan recently signed a series of agreements which will provide \$31.2 million in economic assistance to Jordan. These agreements are in addition to the \$27 million of feedgrain to be donated this year by the United States to help Jordanian livestock and poultry farmers maintain production and deliver essential food to consumers. For me, the agreements represent a milestone in bilateral relations and a good occasion to bring to the attention of your readers the extent of the cooperative aid relationship that exists between the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The initiating of these agreements marks almost forty years of continuous American aid to Jordan. Since 1952, the United States has provided nearly \$1.85 billion to expand Jordan's economic base and improve the quality of life for its people. This assistance, channeled through the Agency for International Development (USAID), includes the training of nearly 3,800 Jordanians in various professions at institutions in the United States or at American institutions abroad. It also includes the financing of over 400 projects in the Kingdom dealing with the construction of critical water projects, schools, health centres, roads and factories and the development of agricultural research and extension services, primary health care services, the University of Jordan and many government ministries. As Jordan embarked on a comprehensive economic structural adjustment in the late 1980's, USAID refocused its programmes to help provide needed support. These programmes have had as their primary aim the development of Jordan's private sector — the engine of economic growth and equity in the Kingdom.

The agreements mentioned in the opening paragraph are a good example of the responsiveness of the United States to Jordan's economic development needs. Over \$21 million of the \$31.2 million will be made available to help private companies maintain their production and continue employment of staff. A grant of \$3.5 million will further strengthen the primary health care system. The balance of the funds will be used to support handicraft development, the financing of small businesses, new market development for Jordanian goods, engineering studies for wastewater treatment and the provision of essential government services.

The United States and Jordan have a long and solid relationship based on mutual trust and respect. American aid, coupled with Jordanian skilled manpower, is proof to me that the future of our two countries in this region lies together.

Roger G. Harrison,
U.S. Ambassador.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Reshuffle — a triumph for Masri

(Continued from page 1)

Masri's government was assured of the continued support of the same parliamentary and political forces which stood behind it when the cabinet presented itself for a confidence vote in June, and that the situation was not going to change as a result of this cabinet reshuffle.

Commenting on Dr. Ensour's resignation from the cabinet, a well-informed source confirmed that the deputy from Salt had resigned his ministerial post after his request that the reshuffle bring in a minister of state for foreign affairs who would lead the Jordanian delegation to the conference was denied.

"Ensour wanted to remain in the cabinet as foreign minister but did not want to be part of the negotiating team," an official source told the Jordan Times. "A government cannot be structured to suit the interests of one of its members," the official added.

In explaining their optimism on continued support for the government in the House, senior officials referred to statements by outgoing ministers during cabinet meetings in which they underlined their understanding of the political realities which confront

Jordan and the need to deal with them in a pragmatic manner.

Outgoing ministers Mohammad Faris Tarawneh, Salim Zubi and Dr. Ensour, the official said, "fully understood Jordan's position and the necessity of entering peace negotiations." But, he added, "although it was a political decision it was also personal."

Mr. Tarawneh, in one cabinet meeting was reported by sources as saying that in spite of his conviction that Jordan was on the right track in participating in the peace conference "it goes against my personal ideological dream."

Cabinet members as well as several observers who were contacted by the Jordan Times believed that the decision to expedite the cabinet reshuffle and providing it with clear political objectives "will contribute to a more concrete and cohesive government" and its members will be able to direct closer attention to domestic affairs.

Officials said they believed the limited cabinet reshuffle was sufficient to "remove this could that overshadowed our thinking during the past weeks over the peace process."

One official said that the ministers can now concentrate on their

domestic duties "as things have now become clearer."

The senior cabinet source pointed to the "mood of tension" which permeated both public and official circles before the Palestine National Council (PNC) announced its decision to welcome peace efforts and make plans for a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. "The mood was somewhat tense because of the political situation," the source said.

"It is a new reality for the region to deal with and it was not easy for individuals (in the cabinet) to accept."

He pointed out that since Mr. Masri formed his first government in June "the larger number among cabinet members had slowly accepted the new realities and adapted to them and that is precisely why most of them stayed."

Now, officials say, the atmosphere has changed and has become more relaxed, especially that the "Palestinians themselves have accepted the idea and are willing to enter into negotiations."

"They have taken a decision that we cannot discuss or add to and this has helped tremendously in easing the tension among people," the source said.

'U.N. mission has evidence'

(Continued from page 1)

personally.

Mr. Ekeus said the nuclear inspections team still had work to do. "The team had not yet discovered or managed to disclose everything about Iraq's nuclear weapons development programme."

"But they have found very important findings which will be presented in due course," he said.

Iraq said documents seized were personnel records and that its nuclear experts could be endangered if the records fell into the wrong hands.

But Mr. Ekeus said such paperwork had been returned to the Iraqis and "there is no risk to Iraqi personnel."

U.N. teams seeking Iraq's nuclear, chemical and biological

weapons secrets have had trouble since they started arriving in May to implement terms of the Gulf war ceasefire.

But last weekend Iraq lifted a ban on a team of U.N. inspectors using their own helicopters to seek out the sites from which Baghdad launched Scud missiles on Israel and Saudi Arabia.

The team left Baghdad in the helicopters Thursday for western Iraq and was not expected to return to the Iraqi capital until Sunday.

Iraq's germ warfare programme does not seem to have produced any weapons, a senior United Nations inspector said in Bahrain.

But it has plants which could make biological weapons and should be watched in future, Dr. David Huxford told Reuters.

British Prime Minister John Major told Kuwait's ruler Friday that Britain was determined not to let Iraq rebuild its nuclear or chemical weapons capability.

The emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, met Mr. Major for 50 minutes on the third day of his first visit to Britain since the Gulf war ended on 28. A spokesman for Mr. Major's Downing Street office said the talks focused on Iraq.

Mr. Major also said Iraq should not be allowed back into the international community while President Saddam Hussein remained in power.

The emir said he believed Iraq thought the international attitude towards it would change in time, but Mr. Major assured him this would not happen, the spokesman added.

Britain was a key partner in the U.S.-led coalition that forced Iraqi forces out of Kuwait.

Israel plans more settlements

(Continued from page 1)

The action was seen as part of a continuing struggle to expand the Jewish presence in East Jerusalem.

It coincided with a call by leaders of the 45-month-old Palestinian uprising to mark the Oct. 8 anniversary of the killing by police of 17 Palestinians at the Al Aqsa Mosque.

The house takeover could fuel an already highly-charged atmosphere ahead of the anniversary. In a leaflet circulated on Friday, Palestinians were urged to strike Tuesday and to attend prayers at the mosque in memory of those who died.

Palestinians said 10 settlers from the Ateret Cohanim Jewish seminary broke into the partly-destroyed house under police protection overnight and had put

armed guards at the entrance.

Israel Radio, meanwhile, reported that the government planned to expand Jewish settlement in the occupied Golan Heights by moving civilians into what is now an army outpost named Kela. It said 22 Soviet immigrant families would also live there.

Golan settlement leader Eli Malka indicated on the radio that Kela was part of a plan to double the Jewish population there over the next five years. Mr. Malka spoke just before he met the prime minister show him the settlement plan, the radio said.

Sami Bar-Lev, head of a Golan Heights town council, said the prime minister had assured him there was "not a shadow of a doubt" over the future of the Golan.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artists Mohammad Hussein Judi (copper engraving) and Sahib Al Yassiri (ceramics) at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Goethe Forest" at

the Department of Science and Technology of the University of Jordan. The exhibition consists of 45 pictures of the forest which is located in Dana between Tafleh and Shobak.

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture by Malik Jaradeh and Christa Schrader entitled "Training of Nurses and Midwives in Jordan" at the Goethe Institute — 7:00 p.m.

Two ex-ministers, 3 new faces

(Continued from page 1)

and Mr. Surour on Friday.

With the reshuffle the number of deputies in the cabinet was reduced to nine from 10; while two — Mr. Tarawneh and Mr. Zoubi — left, one — Mr. Obeidat — came in.

The Jordan Arab National Democratic Alliance has now four cabinet members after the

resignation of its member Tarawneh as minister. The National Bloc has also four, in addition to Prime Minister Masri.

The 18-member Constitution Bloc, held several meetings in the past few days. The bloc decided in its meetings to back Mr. Masri's cabinet whether it contained members of the bloc or not.

Five join cabinet

(Continued from page 1)

first worked for Radio Jordan before founding Al Manar Arabic daily in 1960 in Amman. Mr. Sharif became chief editor of Al Dustour daily in 1967. He also worked in Qatar between 1968 and 1974 before returning to Al Dustour where he had been serving as chief editor until early this year. He is married with three sons and two daughters.

Jordan and PLO hold talks

(Continued from page 1)

on the participation of all parties involved to work together towards achieving a just and comprehensive peace for the Middle East conflict and the Palestinian problem," Dr. Abu Jaber a prominent political scientist, told the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The PLO, according to the officials, is also seeking a joint Jordanian-Palestinian negotiating position that will call for an immediate freeze to Israeli settlements in the occupied territories. American assurances regarding the Arab status of Eastern Jerusalem and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Although Jordan has reiterated its commitment to the same demands, it is still unclear if both sides have agreed on pushing for these terms prior to the or at the negotiating table.

The Palestinian officials said that the PLO believes and insists that a freeze on Israeli settlements should be in place prior to or simultaneously with the beginning of the conference. The PLO, they said, also demanded that the issue concerning the status of Jerusalem be tackled at an early stage of the peace conference and not at a later stage as the Americans have reportedly suggested.

According to the senior source, Jordan believes there is not very much that Jordan and the PLO can do in the quest for reaching agreements on what the Palestinians want to agree on, like the issue of freezing Israeli settlements before negotiations start.

"This is an area where Jordan is unable to do anything," said the source, who preferred anonymity. "The U.S. has to work towards freezing the occupation authorities' settlement activities."

In a statement he gave two weeks ago, when U.S. Secretary of State James Baker visited Jordan, Prime Minister Masri implied that Jordan

would not stipulate a freeze on settlements prior to the conference but would strongly press the issue as a number one priority at the beginning of the parley.

"We have one major concern and that is the settlements. It's really something that is growing in importance. When and if the conference opens it will be the first problem," Mr. Masri said at the time.

According to political observers, Jordan is concerned that the Arab side should not be projected in any way to be the party that obstructed or impeded the convening of the conference.

But Palestinian officials say that they fear that if there was no immediate freeze on settlements Israel will buy more time to build new ones while the conference is negotiating the issues. "If this happens, Israel's view that the settlements issue is not linked to the peace process will prevail and Tel Aviv will not be under pressure to halt the settlements," said one PLO official.

According to information available to the Jordan Times, the Jordanian and the Palestinian were still engaged in talks last night concerning a common negotiating position and had not reached the details concerning the structure of the joint delegation, the PLO's role and who will speak on behalf of the delegation.

The PLO insists on an independent Palestinian representation within a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and that it remained responsible for the delegation at the conference. So the U.S. proposals for a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation do not meet the PLO objectives, and therefore Jordan and the PLO are expected to be seeking a presentation of the final agreement in a way that will be acceptable to Washington.

Any agreement that will give the impression that the PLO has lost its role or that the Palestinian representation will have no independent representation will be met with strong opposi-

tion by the Palestinian factions and even the majority of Palestinian independent at the PNC, some Palestinian analysts warn.

Two previous attempts to reach an agreement on forming a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation failed in 1983 and 1986 when the PLO insisted on independent Palestinian representation — a condition that the U.S. rejected then.

But PLO officials said that they were keen not to allow the issue to spoil Jordanian-Palestinian relations, especially as the "differences are between us and the Americans not between the Jordanians and the Palestinians."

It was unclear until that night when the current talks would end but observers noted that both sides did not have too much time, especially that the other steps hinge on a Jordanian-Palestinian agreement.

The PLO and Jordan have been seeking a meeting of the five front line states — Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the PLO — to coordinate the Arab position before the convening of the conference.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharras said Friday that this meeting will take place next week, signalling a shift in the Syrian position.

But some Arab analysts believe that the meeting cannot take place unless Jordan and the PLO resolved the issue of Palestinian representation, or else the five states might have to decide on the issue — an option that Jordan and the PLO are not likely to prefer.

The PLO delegation currently in Jordan includes Executive Committee members Mahmoud Mazza, Yasser Abed Rabbo and Salehman Najib. Taking part in discussions with the team were Prime Minister Masri, the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, Deputy Prime Minister Ali Suheimat, Foreign Minister Abu Jaber and Information Minister Shurif.

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Jordan Times

Al Orthodoxy closes in on title

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The second stage of the under-19 basketball competition became an event of challenge and rivalry Thursday as the four teams played crucial matches which would almost determine their final league standings.

Al Orthodoxy moved a step closer to the title as current titleholders Al Ahli disappointed their fans and lost the match 87-63.

Rivals Al Jazireh and Al Watani fought it out in a most exciting and competitive match which Al Jazireh won 78-76.

The Orthodoxy-Al Ahli match was certainly not the expected match-up between the two top teams in Jordan.

Al Orthodoxy, playing man-to-

man defence throughout the match, effectively limited the scoring ability of Al Ahli's Taher Al Abuni and Ramez Ham-moudeh and finished the first half 52-31.

"We depended on an up-to-date basketball rule that says 'if you play good defence you win the game,' and it proved to be right," said Al Orthodoxy's coach Hilal Barakat.

Led by Mudar Barakat (who scored 30 points), Ziyad Al Nabulsi and Mustafa Al Ghoul, Al Orthodoxy scored a big win of 87-63.

"We have trained well and worked really hard. I am happy and await next Thursday's final," Barakat told the Jordan Times.

Al Ahli will have to win by more than 24 points if they want to retain their title in next week's final.

In the other match Al Jazireh beat Al Watani 78-76 in a match that was interesting yet nerve-wrecking to players and fans alike.

After Al Jazireh had led by 14 points in the first half, Al Watani caught-up and ended the first half at 42-42.

In the second half, Al Watani led at 63-51 in the eighth minute, but Al Jazireh's good defence stopped many scoring chances and reduced the difference.

Al Jazireh caught-up with Al Watani (who had led 71-61 in the 14th minute) at 71-70 and with three pointers from Luay Khudair won the match 78-76.

"Nobody should underestimate our team," Al Jazireh's coach Fadi Al Sabbah told the Jordan Times.

Al Watani's head coach Ghaith Al Najjar attributed his team's

loss to lack of substitutes.

"The last five minutes of a match are very crucial. We had played man-to-man defence throughout the game and I didn't have enough substitutes. We just had some back luck at the end," Najjar said.

"We are determined to give Al Ahli a tough time in our coming game. If all goes well we might have a chance at winning," Najjar told the Jordan Times.

With this win Al Jazireh moved closer to the No. 3 spot unless Al Watani beats them by more than two points in next Thursday's final.

Six games remain in the under-19 basketball competition with the finals set for Thursday Oct. 10.

On Sunday Al Orthodoxy plays Al Watani and Al Ahli plays Al Jazireh.

Arsenal draws Benfica in European Cup tie

LONDON (R) — English soccer champions Arsenal were drawn against Benfica, one of the legendary giants of European soccer, Friday in the glamour tie of the second round of the European Cup.

Benfica, twice European champions in the 1960s and finalists in two of the last four years, will provide a severe test for Arsenal and English soccer, absent from the European Cup for six years.

Liverpool, whose fans' rioting at the 1985 European Cup final led to English being banned from Europe, were drawn against French side Auxerre in the second round of the UEFA Cup.

European Cup champions Red Star Belgrade received the simplest of second round ties against Cypriot Apollon Limassol, surprise first round victors over Romania's University Craiova.

Last year's losing finalists Marseille play Sparta Prague, the Czechoslovak side who knocked out Scottish champions Glasgow Rangers.

Another enticing tie sees Barcelona paired against German champions Kaiserslautern.

England's two representatives in the European Cup Wimen's Cup both face tough ties against in-form opposition.

Holders Manchester United, who head the English League but struggled to reach the second round, meet Spanish League leaders Atletico Madrid, while Tottenham face Portugal's pacesetters FC Porto.

Arsenal, unseeded in the European Cup draw, are looking forward to what will be their biggest games in Europe since they lost the final of the Cup Wimen's Cup on penalties to Valencia in 1980.

They have the advantage of playing the first leg away as the bid to reach the lucrative experimental round-robin quarter-final stage awaiting second-round winners of the European Cup.

Arsenal Vice-President David Dean said: "This is a very exciting draw for us. Portuguese sides are very strong in European club football so we can look forward

to two great games."

Benfica President Joao Santos said: "To pick a club like Arsenal which is a household name in Portugal when they talk about English clubs is a great pleasure for us."

All ties are due to be played on Oct. 23 and Nov. 6.

Sampdoria, who won the Italian championship for the first time in their history last season, meet Honved Budapest of Hungary.

PSV Eindhoven, European champions in 1988, face Belgian neighbours Anderlecht, losing 1990 Cup Wimen's Cup finalists.

Of the other English-Portuguese clash, Tottenham's manager Peter Shreeves said: "Porto will obviously be a difficult examination because we will be playing in front of their fiercely partisan crowd."

"I am just pleased we've avoided Manchester United," Liverpool's second tie after their six-year ban from European competition, pitches them against a French side who are in mid-table.

Liverpool, four times European champions, cruised past Finland's Kuusysi Lahti 6-1, although were beaten 1-0 away.

Liverpool chief executive Peter Robinson said: "We have not played Auxerre before but it could certainly be a tough game in the first leg away."

Two of six former European champions in the UEFA Cup, Real Madrid and Bayern Munich, were drawn away in their first-leg rounds against significantly weaker opposition.

Bayern travel to B1903 Copenhagen, surprise first-round conquerors of Scotland's Aberdeen, and Real play FC Utrecht, currently mid-table in the Dutch League.

Torino, one of two Italian clubs remaining in the UEFA Cup, will not relish their tie against Fiorentina, the Portuguese side who knocked out holders Inter Milan after holding them to a 0-0 draw in Italy.

Generous poorly drawn in Arc de Triomphe showpiece

PARIS (R) — Hot favourite Generous was poorly drawn at 14/1, the 14 runners when final declarations were announced Friday for Sunday's Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe horse racing showpiece.

The English and Irish Derby winner has been a firm 5-4 chance since adding the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes to his laurels in July.

But Friday's draw places him on the outside of a star-studded field and because French stewards insist horses must run straight for the first 50 metres, the English-trained colt will be at a disadvantage in the early stages.

But chief rival to Generous, the impressive French Derby and Irish Champion Stakes winner Sive Dancer, was drawn 12 so it may not be a huge problem for the favourite.

Other leading favourites, 1990 English St. Leger winner Saurage and French-trained Pistolet Bleu were drawn 11 and 1 respectively. Toulon, winner of this year's English Leger but trained in France, was drawn 10.

Veteran jockey Freddie Head, who has won the Arc four times, finds himself without a mount following the overnight withdrawal of Subotica, trained by Andre Fabre.

Head was to have ridden Pigeon Voyageur, one of Fabre's other runners, but when Subotica was pulled out because of a rash, Thierry Jarret, who is attached to the Fabre Stable, switched from Subotica to Pigeon Voyageur.

British jockey Alan Munro, who has shot to fame through his connection with Generous, will be having his first Arc ride Sunday.

Edberg, Gilbert advance to Sydney semifinals

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Top-seeded Stefan Edberg rallied to beat Michael Chang 6-4, 7-5 Friday and advanced to the semifinals of the \$1 million Australian Indoor Tennis Championship.

The Swedish power-server was joined in the final four by ninth-seeded American Brad Gilbert, who out-guiled South African Wayne Ferreira 6-1, 6-4.

Edberg, the U.S. Open champion, will face either No. 4 Andre Agassi or No. 6 Goran Ivanisevic in Saturday's semis.

Gilbert, who hasn't won a tournament this year, will play either No. 3 Pete Sampras or No. 5 David Wheaton. Gilbert has won at least one tournament for each of the last seven years.

Chang, the No. 8 seed, led Edberg 4-1 in the second set, but the Swede swept back to win five of the last six games.

"At the moment he is a better player than I am," Chang conceded. "He's really improved his mental toughness and comes up with really big serves on the tough points."

"At 19, I have more to learn than a guy like Stefan," Experience also proved the difference between Gilbert and Ferreira, who Thursday dumped three-time champion Ivan Lendl out of the third round.

Gilbert mixed up his play well

and never allowed Ferreira to dominate with the pace and power that befuddled Lendl.

The 30-year-old Californian played brilliantly to win in 66 minutes.

"I thought he might be a little sluggish at the start and I didn't give him time to establish a rhythm," Gilbert said.

"I felt I had a good game-plan going in and I stayed with it. I was mixing up my shots and could see him getting frustrated. I may be 30, but I've still got a lot of tennis left in me."

Ferreira said he had felt a letdown after his victory over second-seeded Lendl. He paid tribute to Gilbert's court craft.

"I battled to get going," said the 20-year-old South African. "He played pretty well and served well. It was frustrating because I wanted to play as well as I had against Lendl, but it's difficult to get over a big match."

Ferreira said the defeat had taught him a lot.

"I realized today what it is like (at the top)," he said. "He's been playing for so many years and I'm just learning the mental game. He's got the edge."

The tournament offers a first prize of \$122,700, is being played on synthetic plastic-pave courts, and continues through Sunday.

McEnroe reaches final 8 of Toulouse tournament

TOULOUSE, France (AP) — John McEnroe breezed into the quarterfinals of the \$300,000 Toulouse Grand Prix Tennis Tournament, but third-seeded Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland lost.

McEnroe, the No. 6 seed, topped Tomas Carbonell of Spain, 6-1, 6-4, in the quarterfinals, he will meet hard-serving Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands, who beat Hlasek, 6-2, 6-4.

In another second-round match, Marc Rosset, the seventh seed from Switzerland, beat Swede Thomas Enqvist, 6-4, 1-6, 7-6 (7-2).

McEnroe is hoping for a quick

return to France as part of the U.S. team in the Davis Cup final.

"I would love to play Davis Cup. I already won it four times," McEnroe said Wednesday.

The United States faces France starting Nov. 29 in Lyon, and McEnroe thinks he deserves a spot on the team, especially in doubles.

"In doubles I am probably the best U.S. player," McEnroe said. "If the captain wants me to play doubles in the Davis Cup, I don't have to prove anything here. He should know the level of my past."

Navratilova glad to play differently from rivals

MILAN (AP) — Martina Navratilova says she's glad she plays a different style than her younger rivals Monica Seles and Jennifer Capriati.

The 34-year-old American, a serve-and-volley player who once dominated the women's game, says tennis fans support her and enjoy her play "because I take chances" and because they like the contrast of styles.

Both Seles and Capriati are baseliners.

"I am not going to change my play. It would be too much the same stuff to play the way Capriati and Seles do," she said.

Navratilova, who reached the quarterfinals of the Milan Ladies Indoor tournament Thursday by defeating Australian Rachel McQuillan 6-7, (6-8), 6-0, 6-0 said she and Jimmy Connors have proven that one can play spectacular, consistent tennis at the age of nearly 40.

"I don't know if teenage play-

ers who are winning Grand Slam tournaments right now will be able to stay on top so long," she said. "Certainly they start much younger. I was a good player at 19. They begin at 16, have more mileage and demands to face."

Fourth-seeded Conchita Martinez and seventh-seeded Gigi Fernandez both advanced to the quarterfinals of the Milan Ladies Indoor with victories Wednesday, but both were unimpressive against lightly-regarded opponents.

Fernandez, a 27-year-old American, rallied from a set down to beat French qualifier Nathalie Herremann 4-6, 6-2, 6-2 in one hour and 34 minutes at the Assago Forum.

Martinez, ranked eighth by the Women's Tennis Association, vacillated between well-placed shots and several unforced errors in beating Karina Habsidova 6-4, 6-1.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You now have every need to make certain that what ever you tie yourself down to will remain in effect for a considerable time to come. Listen to what others are telling you before you act.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You now have a considerable amount of assignments of routine nature to do. If you make sure you add a touch of class to your surroundings all is much better.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20) This is your moment to show you know how to amuse and entertain those upon you rely for a good time as well as accepting favours from them.

Gemini: (May 21 to June 21) Whatever has real bearing upon your interest in gaining the good will of members of your own household is important now so consider their wants.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Start this day right by immediately sitting down and making some arrangements with those who are useful allies to better your present arrangements.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You can get right into the nitty-gritty of financial problems now and you are able to see ways and means to build up your nest egg to greater heights.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Whatever means the most to you is fine now but concentrate upon whatever is

of a personal nature and you can make big headway towards gaining your ends.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You need to use most of this day to think out and plan a course of action that can bring you a great deal more of the good things of life.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You like to be sure to do everything to yourself but it is necessary that you confide more in friends who like and want you to gain your personal desires.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Whatever means the most to you in the way of worldly position can be approached with a better chance of increasing your standing in your community.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 30) Think over that plan that means so much to you again and then you will see the best way to expand your present success and gain more praise.

AQUARIUS: (January 31 to February 19) Whatever means the most to you is all right if you make a point to delve into all the specific projects of an exact nature required for success.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Show now that you are willing to go to the end of the earth to realize your goal. You want to get along with them so your joint undertaking can be a success.

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THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"Draw some pimples on my face. Maybe if I look young, I'll feel young!"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME — by Herri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KOVEE

WHOSY

RAYTLE

YEAWLE

Yes, you're right, dear

HIS WIFE WAS AN OPHTHALMOLOGIST, AND SHE CORRECTED HIS VISION UNTIL HE SAW THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

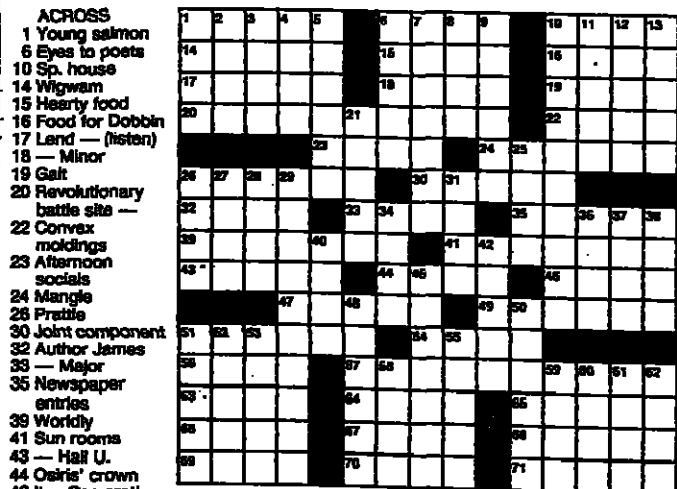
Answer: KOVEE TO WHOSY WITH YEAWLE

Saturday's Jumbles: LEECH GNOME SHADOW TREATY

Answer: The main course at a light-hearted get-together — THE "ROAST"

THE Daily Crossword

by Florence C. Adler



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1 Across: 10 Sp. house 11 Brother of Moses 12 Emporium 13 Busting 14 Dangle 15 Muddy the waters 16 Predicaments 17 Chills and fever 18 Crooked 19 Idyllic estate 20 Alewife 21 Bring up 22 Of an age 23 Margot Marceau 24 Bur. valley 25 Indigo 26 Rubbish 27 Despotism 28 Avoid 29 Standards of perfection 30 Pans 31 Scoundrel 32 Come into being 33 Sides 34 — axis 35 — machine 36 Monster 37 Hawaiian goose 38 Akrone: abbr.

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
K53 AQ6 AQ95
Pass — revers the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

Q.2 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
K53 AQ6 AQ95
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 Pass 2 Pass
3 Pass 4 Pass
What do you bid now?

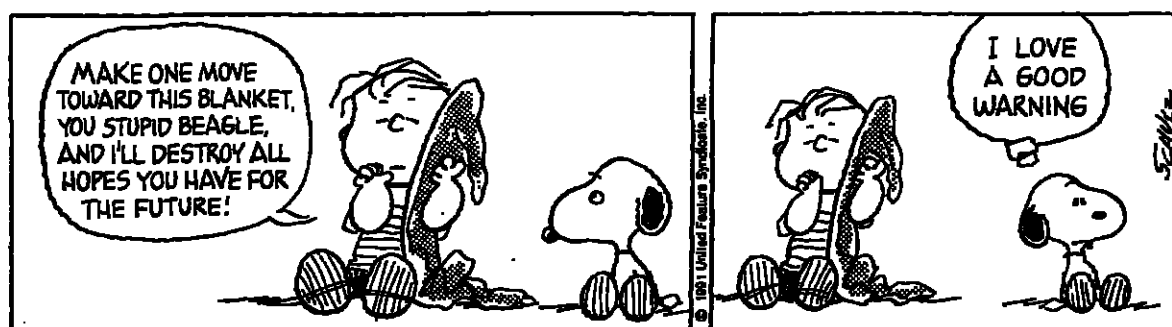
Q.3 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
K53 AQ6 AQ95
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 Pass 2 Pass
3 Pass 4 Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.4 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
K53 AQ6 AQ95
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 Pass 2 Pass
3 Pass 4 Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.5 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
KQJ1052 J1053
Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?

Q.6 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
K53 AQ10 AQ94 J762
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 Pass 1 Pass
2 Pass 2 Pass
What do you bid now?

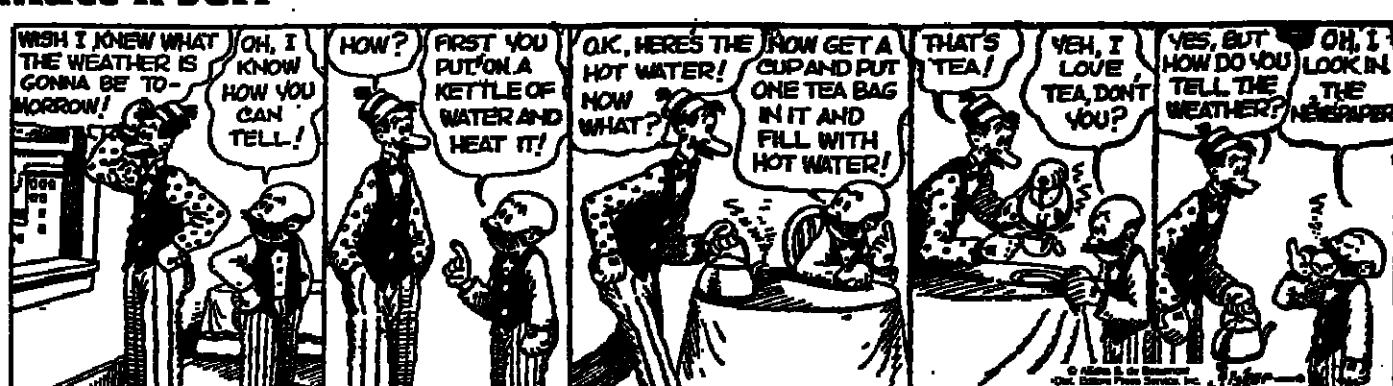
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE Date 2/10/91	TOKYO CLOSE Date 3/10/91
Sterling Pound	1.7500	1.7547
Deutsche Mark	1.6660	1.6603
Swiss Franc	1.4562	1.4525
French Franc	5.6745	5.6545
Japanese Yen	132.59	130.80
European Currency Unit	1.2285	1.2339

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European Currency Unit

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.31	5.43	5.43	5.56
Sterling Pound	10.37	10.18	10.12	9.93
Deutsche Mark	9.06	9.25	9.31	9.31
Swiss Franc	8.06	8.06	8.06	7.87
French Franc	9.37	9.37	9.37	9.37
Japanese Yen	6.71	6.46	6.21	6.00
European Currency Unit	9.87	9.93	9.93	9.87

Previous Metals

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	357.00	6.90	Silver	4.19	.095

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.685	.687
Sterling Pound	1.1999	1.2059
Deutsche Mark	.4119	.4140
Swiss Franc	.4709	.4735
French Franc	.1209	.1215
Japanese Yen	.5206	.5234
Dutch Guilder	.3655	.3673
Swedish Krona	.1130	.1136
Italian Lira	.0551	.0554
Belgian Franc	.01993	.02003

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7880	1.7960
Lebanese Lira	.0768	.0772
Saudi Riyal	.1824	.1835
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	—
Qatari Riyal	.1856	.1863
Egyptian Pound	.2070	.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7580	1.7700
UAE Dirham	.1856	.1863
Greek Drachma	.3690	.3700
Cypriot Pound	1.4600	1.4750

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	1/10/91	Close	2/10/91	Close
All-Share	121.98		121.80	
Banking Sector	102.98		102.34	
Insurance Sector	122.49		122.47	
Industry Sector	151.16		150.01	
Services Sector	128.64		128.41	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.7513/23	U.S. dollar	1.7513/23
One U.S. dollar	1.1320/25	Canadian dollar	1.6020/27
	1.6020/27	Deutsche mark	1.8750/40
	1.4320/27	Dutch guilder	34.25/29
	5.6620/70	Swiss franc	1242/1243
	1242/1243	French franc	129.90/130.00
	6.0570/0620	Japanese yen	6.5070/5120
	6.4120/70	Norwegian crown	6.4120/70
One ounce of gold	356.70/357.20	Danish crown	—
		U.S. dollars	—

Disney to trim 1992 spending with Mickey's arrival in Paris

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Florida (R) Walt Disney Co. will trim its capital spending budget in 1992 after opening the \$3.5 billion Euro Disneyland, the latest in an fast-growing network of theme parks and hotel resorts, Disney President Frank Wells has said.

Speaking in an interview marking the 20th anniversary of Florida's Walt Disney World, Mr. Wells declined to give details of how much the company planned to cut spending next year.

"I would doubt that capital expenditures for fiscal 1992 will be as high as 1991 just because of the cycle we're in," Mr. Wells said.

He was referring to Disney's completion of two major Florida resorts earlier this year and its planned April opening of Euro Disneyland. The company is eyeing additional theme parks in Tokyo, central Florida and south-

ern California, but any projects would not be included in next year's budget, he said.

The Euro Disneyland park, six adjacent hotel resorts and a golf course near Paris are expected to attract more than 11 million visitors during the first year.

Disney's businesses have expanded far beyond its trademark Mickey Mouse character to include movie and television programming, home videos, magazines and various consumer retail products.

Mr. Wells did not say how much Disney spent in fiscal 1991, which ended Sept. 30. But a company spokesman said Disney spent about \$1 billion during the past fiscal year, excluding the Euro Disneyland project.

Mr. Wells also said a year-long slump in attendance at U.S. theme parks caused by the economic recession had bottomed out.

"Attendance has been down somewhat because of the economic circumstances of this past year. We see it building back up and think it will continue to build up this (fiscal) year to pre-recession levels," he said.

The rapidly expanding network of theme parks — including three in central Florida, the original Disneyland in southern California and Tokyo Disney — contribute more than half of Disney's companywide revenues.

The company does not release attendance figures for its theme parks, but industry analysts have estimated that attendance fell by 10 to 15 per cent during the past year.

During the first nine months of the year, Disney revenues decreased six per cent to \$2.05 billion from the previous period. Net income fell sharply to \$462.6 million compared to \$591.3 million for the same period in 1990.

New U.S. immigration law emphasises alien contribution

NEW YORK (R) — A new U.S. immigration act emphasising alien contributions to the U.S. economy has taken effect, the first major overhaul of these laws in 25 years.

Provisions in the sweeping legislation make it easier for highly skilled immigrants who possess "extraordinary ability" in the arts, sciences, education or sport and wealthy investors to settle in the United States.

Under the new law, up to 700,000 immigrants for each of the next three years will be allowed to enter the United States.

The total number of visas issued annually for permanent residents with special skills, for

example, will rise to 140,000 from 54,000.

Included in the new figures is a category providing 10,000 visas for foreign investors who plan to spend at least \$1 million in the United States.

A major purpose of the act is to allow entry of managers and professionals. Their skills are expected to improve the U.S. work pool and enhance American competitiveness.

The new act creates five categories for permanent visas. The first category provides 40,000 visas for "priority workers."

There are three types of these immigrants: Those who have demonstrated "extraordinary ability" in the arts, sciences, educa-

tion, business or athletics, those who are "outstanding" professors or researchers, or those who are multinational executives and managers.

The second, third and fourth categories provide 40,000 visas each for professionals holding advanced degrees, skilled workers, and clergy and religious workers.

The last category, which immigration lawyers have dubbed "the millionaires club," allows wealthy foreigners to settle here if they plan to spend at least \$1 million in capital for a commercial enterprise and hire at least 10 U.S. citizens or aliens admitted for permanent residence.

Candian government workers end national strike

OTTAWA (R) — Canadian government employees, facing stiff fines under back-to-work legislation, ended a strike Thursday over higher pay that crippled services across the nation for almost three weeks.

Activity at U.S. border crossings, airports were reported back to normal. "People are not happy but they are at work," union spokeswoman Caroline Combs said in an interview.

A 10-day strike by members of the Public Service Alliance of Canada, suspended last month for negotiations, resumed a week ago after the government and union failed to reach a contract settlement.

But parliament passed a law Wednesday ordering 110,000 union members to return to work. The government, seeking to slash a budget deficit and inflation, froze wages this year and imposed rises of three per cent in 1992 and 1993.

The workers would have faced daily fines of \$885 if they had defied the law.

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Iran drills into Qatar gas field

DUBAI (R) — Iran is drilling into Qatar's North Field, the world's biggest gas find, saying it juts into its territorial waters, Gulf oil industry sources have said.

The Italian firm Technologic Progetti e Lavori (TPL), awarded a \$37 million contract by Iran in July to drill three appraisal wells, moved a Soviet-owned drilling rig to the South Pars site in the central Gulf, the sources said.

Qatar officially began tapping its North Field less than a month ago. The emirate's oil reserves are expected to be depleted early next century and it has pinned all its hopes for future riches on the huge gas reservoir, estimated to hold up to 500 trillion cubic feet (14 trillion cubic metres) of natural gas.

"TPL moved the rig to South Pars without any ceremony and started drilling," an oil industry executive in the Gulf said.

Iran, sitting on the world's second largest natural gas reserves after the Soviet Union, calls its section of the North Field South Pars.

Iran in 1989 claimed at least 30 per cent of the field was under its territorial waters and initially sought joint development.

Qatar has officially remained silent on Tehran's claims on parts of the North Field but Qataris say privately that the Iranian claim does not worry them.

"There is so much gas down there that the Qataris would not be too worried if the Iranian start pumping some out in their own waters," one diplomat said.

Some industry sources believe Iran started drilling to put pressure on Qatar to agree to share revenue.

Experts say the Khuff geological formation, which holds the gas in North Field, extends hundreds of kilometres under the Gulf and it is likely that Iran might find some gas in its side of the demarcation line.

But the main reservoir, 2,500-2,900 metres below the seabed and covering an area of 6,000 square kilometres is under Qatari waters.

Iran signed an agreement in July with TPL and another Italian firm Saipem to explore and develop South Pars in two stages. "They (Iranians) want to evaluate the gas and condensate production potential. Drilling three wells is expected to take 18 months," an oil industry source said.

The second phase of the Iranian project to develop South Pars is expected to cost \$3 to \$5 billion if production from the field is deemed feasible.

Iran plans to export liquefied natural gas (LNG) and condensates from the field and pump the dry gas onshore.

Qatar officially inaugurated the first phase of the North Field project on Sept. 3, after starting production in August.

It started pumping out some 700 million cubic feet (20 million cubic metres) of natural gas a day from the North Field after three years of development which cost over \$1.2 billion and was delayed for at least six months by leaks.

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Yugoslav fighting overshadows peace talks

Mesic accuses Serbia, allies of staging 'coup'

ZAAGREB (R) — The Yugoslav army launched fresh mortar attacks on Dubrovnik and other Croatian cities Friday and President Stipe Mesic accused Serbia and its allies of staging a coup.

The sharpening tension and violence cast a shadow over peace talks due to resume Friday.

Croatian Radio said hundreds of women and children fled the Adriatic village of Slano, north of Dubrovnik, in the early hours as the army rained mortars down on them.

It said attacks resumed on the suburbs of the ancient city and reported an air raid alert in the port of Zadar.

Mortars also fell on the eastern town of Vukovar and on Nova Gradiska and Pakrac in the centre of Croatia, where Croats are battling rebel Serbs and the army.

The radio gave no details of casualties on the third day of a new army offensive.

Mr. Mesic, a Croat, accused Serbia and its three allies of carrying out a coup Thursday by adopting special powers to take decisions on behalf of the eight-man collective presidency even if

their four rivals were not present. They said they could do so under emergency procedures because Yugoslavia faced an immediate threat of war.

But Mr. Mesic told Reuters: "There was no quorum and no decision could legally be taken. It is a coup d'etat."

He said Yugoslavia had ceased to exist and the Croatian government accused Serbia, its traditional rival, of taking over the last vestiges of federal power.

Serbia, the biggest Yugoslav republic, its Kosovo and Vojvodina provinces and Montenegro, were backed by the army at a session boycotted by the republics of Slovenia, Macedonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The row followed one of the worst days of fighting on Thursday since Croatia declared independence on June 25 and its Serbian minority rebelled.

It broke out on the eve of European Community (EC) talks on Yugoslavia in the Netherlands Friday.

Defence Minister General Veljko Kadijevic, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman were due to meet EC envoy Lord Carrington, a former British foreign secretary, in the Hague.

The EC has been trying to negotiate a political solution to Yugoslavia's crisis but its efforts have repeatedly broken down. A series of EC-brokered ceasefires have collapsed and hopes of ending the fighting are fading.

Gen. Kadijevic, bitterly attacking Mr. Mesic and Yugoslav Prime Minister Ante Markovic Thursday, said Neo-Nazism was rife in Croatia and that conditions now existed for a general mobilisation.

He stopped short of ordering a call-up.

He and Vice-President Branko Kostic, a Montenegrin, denied the Serbian-led moves amounted to a coup.

Leaders of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia also rejected decisions made at Thursday's meeting as unconstitutional, widening the already huge differences among Yugoslavia's eight republics and provinces.

The Croatian government called for the disbanding of the



Croatian National Guards help a wounded comrade during a recent battle against the Yugoslav army

federal army and accused Serbia of taking over the remaining federal institutions.

"All federal Yugoslav institutions have either ceased to function or are functioning as institutions of the Republic of Serbia," it said in a statement.

Thursday's battles were among the worst in more than three

months of fighting that has killed more than 1,000 people.

The Yugoslav army has stepped up an offensive in the rebel republic this week to lift Croatian blockades of federal military bases on its territory and the navy has blockaded Croatian ports.

Dozens of people have been reported killed and hundreds

have been wounded, but no official casualty toll has been released.

Dubrovnik, the pride of Yugoslavia's tourism industry, has been badly affected by the latest offensive. It has been surrounded, and water, communications and electricity have been cut off.

S. African author hopes prize will focus attention on apartheid

NEW YORK (AP) — Nadine Gordimer hopes her Nobel Prize in Literature will stir renewed support around the world for racial equality in her native South Africa.

"I have two roles in my life — one as a writer and another one, my commitment to the cause of freedom in South Africa and creating a new post-apartheid culture in South Africa," she told reporters Thursday, shortly after learning that she had won the prize.

Ms. Gordimer, 67, who is white, has written 10 novels and more than 200 short stories. She was the first woman in 25 years to win the prize.

A member of the African National Congress, the overwhelmingly black nationalist movement, she has often been at odds with the white-led South African government. Three of her novels once were banned in South Africa.

Her books address the suffering caused by racism and the way blacks and whites relate to each other under apartheid.

The academy said Ms. Gordimer, in works since the 1970s, had developed a complex novelistic

technique that produced three masterpieces: The Conservationist of 1974, Burger's Daughter of 1979, and July's People of 1981.

Burger's Daughter was temporarily banned by the government, which called it a "pad from which to launch a blistering and full-scale political attack on the Republic of South Africa."

But she refused to leave her homeland, once telling an interviewer that "to go into exile is to lose your place in the world."

All her works, which include 10 novels and more than 200 short stories, are legal in South Africa today.

Ms. Gordimer said she would never accept literary honours from South African authorities "as long as we have a purely white government." But she said she expected to be congratulated by South African President F.W. de Klerk — and she was.

In a statement issued Thursday night, Mr. De Klerk said: "It gives me great pleasure to congratulate Nadine Gordimer on this exceptional achievement which is also an honour for South Africa."

Mr. De Klerk's government has dismantled apartheid laws

and is preparing for talks on sharing political power with the voteless black majority.

The African National Congress, South Africa's chief anti-apartheid movement of which Ms. Gordimer is a member, also hailed the award.

"In honouring Nadine, one of South Africa's outstanding writers, the people of the world pay tribute to all South Africans who stand for truth, human dignity and freedom," the ANC said.

South Africa's Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984, said he had telephoned Ms. Gordimer to congratulate her. "She has had this tremendous commitment and caring about people, caring about justice, and here is the world recognising it and giving her the highest accolade that you can get," he said.

Ms. Gordimer was in the United States for a week on a promotional lecture tour for her new book, Jump. She was staying with her son, Hugo, a filmmaker in New York, when she was awakened by a phone call bringing the news that she had won the prize.

Clashes erupt again in Soviet Georgia; 3 wounded

MOSCOW (Agencies) — At least three militiamen loyal to Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia were seriously wounded Friday in a fierce shoot-out with rebel gunmen that killed hopes for calm in the volatile Soviet republic.

Local journalists said the fighting erupted in mid-morning when opposition troops attacked a militia post at a lake on the outskirts of the Georgian capital Tbilisi.

"There was a fierce exchange of fire," said a journalist from the independent Iprinda News Agency, whose offices are close to the scene of the fighting.

Interfax News Agency said the fighting stretched into the afternoon, with rebels troops taking aim from the roofs of nearby houses.

The fighting erupted one day after rebel gunmen pulled out of the city centre, sparking hopes for peace after a tense month of confrontation.

But after ending their occupation of the city's television station, the rebels merely regrouped around the lake just outside the city.

Tensions meanwhile mounted in Tbilisi, where 5,000 opposition supporters massed on the main thoroughfare Rustaveli Avenue, journalists said.

The demonstrators were headed for the government compound, they added, separated by loyalist troops from a pro-Gamsakhurdia crowd of about the same size. Many of these have been brought into the capital by bus from the provinces and have been sleeping in tents.

Mr. Gamsakhurdia, an ardent Georgian nationalist, has steered his mountainous southern republic on a path of independence from Moscow since being elected by a landslide in May.

But his opponents accuse him of trying to impose a dictatorship, muzzling the press and bullying the republic's minority peoples.

Parliamentary speaker Akaki Asatiani, a Gamsakhurdia ally, said he was going to the lake to try to talk to the rebels.

Rebel commander Tengiz Kitovani — who says he has 7,000 men under his control — has said the rebels' pull-out from the city centre was a change of tactics in the fight for government concessions.

The opposition wants freedom of the press, access to television time, and release of political prisoners. An earlier demand for Mr. Gamsakhurdia's resignation has been shelved.

The crisis in Georgia is currently the most acute in any of the 12 remaining Soviet Republics, which President Mikhail Gorbachev hopes to knit into a union of sovereign states.

The rebels seized the Tbilisi Television Centre two weeks ago at the height of a campaign to force Mr. Gamsakhurdia from office.

In a separate development, Alexander Yakovlev, a senior adviser to President Gorbachev, warned Thursday that economic hardships might produce a repetition of August's hardline coup.

"Much depends on the empty pots that can lead to a new putsch."

New Swedish government to cut taxes, aid to Cuba

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Carl Bildt, Sweden's first conservative prime minister in 60 years, presented his government Friday and promised to cut off aid to Cuba in favour of democracies, lower taxes and subsidise parents who don't want to use state day care.

Mr. Bildt also said Sweden would reduce aid to Vietnam, and end aid if there were no signs of democratic reforms.

"Development assistance policy will be reorganised, with greater emphasis on support for democracy and market economies," Mr. Bildt told parliament.

Sweden budgeted 2 million kronor (\$328,000) in aid to Cuba this year, and in February had begun a three-year, 20 million-kronor (\$3.28 million) research and development programme with the Communist country.

The plan Mr. Bildt outlined for his minority coalition's three-year term would shift Swedish governmental policy sharply away from that followed by the Social Democrats for most of the past six decades.

Mr. Bildt, 42, announced a four-party minority government consisting of his Moderate Party,

the Liberals, Centre and Christian Democrats.

"It's the common intention of our parties to carry out a vigorous renewal of Sweden. ... We must not be a nation that slips behind the rest of Europe," Mr. Bildt told parliament the day after it elected him.

He replaced Ingvar Carlsson, head of the Social Democratic Party which suffered defeat in the Sept. 15 parliamentary elections.

Bildt outlined four priorities for his government's three-year term: Getting Sweden into the European Community (EC) as soon as possible; ending economic stagnation by increasing business competitiveness, lowering taxes and inflation; privatising some state welfare services to make them more cost-effective; and protecting the environment.

"Taxes on small business will be reduced. Wealth tax on working capital will be abolished this year. All wealth tax (on large bank accounts and personal luxuries) will be abolished in a few years. Inheritance tax will be reduced. Turnover tax on share transactions will be abolished," Mr. Bildt said.

Belgium decides to start withdrawal from Zaire

BRUSSELS (R) — The Belgian government decided Friday to start withdrawing its troops from Zaire, Belgian Radio reported.

It said 150 of about 1,000 soldiers sent to evacuate Belgian nationals from its former colony would leave.

But Belgium will leave some of its forces in Zaire as a "deterrent force" and to help distribute food and humanitarian aid.

The troops were sent in last week to help evacuate up to 10,000 Belgians caught in the rioting which devastated Kinshasa and provincial towns.

France has also sent forces and the radio said the withdrawal and remaining humanitarian operation would be carried out in conjunction with French troops.

In Paris, a Defence Ministry spokesman said French troops had completed evacuation of foreign nationals from the provinces and had returned to Kinshasa or their bases elsewhere in Africa.

The 500 soldiers remaining in Kinshasa were protecting the airport, the French embassy and some 1,000 remaining French citizens.

1st birthday for united Germany brings strife for foreigners

HAMBURG (AP) — The anti-foreigner violence that overshadowed reunified Germany's first anniversary celebration that day before continued Friday.

Speakers at the country's main national celebration had drawn parallels with Nazi terror as they decry the rash of firebombings and stone-throwings by right-wing extremist thugs.

German President Richard von Weizsaecker visited three homes for asylum-seekers Friday.

In central Germany, radicals set fire to the home of a Turkish family in the town of Seesen early Friday, after shouting "out with foreigners," and "smash the Turks." Police said two adults and three children were suffering from smoke inhalation.

Authorities said about 15 assailants stormed into a shelter from Romanian refugees in the eastern German town of Gatersleben. The attackers nearly destroyed one room, but no injuries were reported.

Attackers also threw firebombs at a refugee shelter in the Bavarian town of Piefenhofen, but none of the Indians and Pakistanis inside was injured.

In Berlin, police said they arrested 59 military leftists who rampaged after marching in a pro-foreigner rally. Leftists also

had clashed with police the day before in Hamburg.

On Thursday alone, German police reported 14 injuries nationwide in attacks in 16 towns and cities.

The most serious left two Lebanese girls, aged 6 and 8, in critical condition after a firebomb was thrown into a shelter for asylum-seekers in Huesne, a suburb of Dusseldorf in western Germany.

Four suspects were arrested and face charges of attempted murder in the Huesne attack, police said. Witnesses said the attackers were "skinheads," youths favouring shaved hair, heavy boots and bomber jackets.

Attacks against foreigners started earlier this year in eastern Germany and were ascribed to young Neo-Nazis and radical rightists without jobs or solid orientation after the collapse of Communist rule. But in recent weeks the violence has spread around western Germany as well.

Last weekend about 20 attacks were reported from Friday through Sunday, hitting asylum-seekers, members of the country's large Turkish minority and black people in public places.

Alarm bells are ringing among political leaders.

"Faced with the experiences

Kaifu not to seek new term

TOKYO (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu is to stand down at the end of October, close colleagues said Friday. The decision opens the way for a four-way race for his successor.

The premier has decided not to seek re-election in a party ballot on Oct. 27, Tokyo Yamashita, a senior member of the ruling party faction to which Kaifu belongs, said on television.

The news was confirmed by another official close to Mr. Kaifu who asked not to be named. The premier would officially announce his decision Saturday.

Mr. Kaifu, 60, has been prime minister since August 1989.

Before the premier's decision not to stand again, leaders of three factions of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) had said they would contest the leadership.

They are two former finance ministers, Kiichi Miyazawa and Michio Watanabe, and ex-Trade Minister Hiroshi Mitsuoka.

After Mr. Kaifu's withdrawal, the largest faction headed by powerful ex-Premier Noboru Takeshita was now virtually certain to enter a candidate, making predictions difficult, LDP officials said.

Mr. Kaifu came to power two years ago at the height of a crisis for the LDP after the successive resignations of Takeshita and another scandal-tainted premier, Sosuke Uno, and a stunning setback in elections for the upper house of parliament.

With other prominent candidates also compromised by the recruit shares-for-favours scandal, LDP barons were forced to turn to the little-known former education minister as a stopgap leader with a Mr. Clean image.

They named him party president, a post that automatically made him premier because of the LDP's entrenched parliamentary majority.

Taking office, Mr. Kaifu pledged reforms to a cash-driven electoral system that virtually invites corruption. He finally introduced a political reform package to parliament in August this year.

Faced with hostility opposition parties and a large proportion of the LDP, ruling party barons decided Monday to withdraw the package from debate without telling the premier.

Mr. Kaifu reacted angrily, making a hasty and thinly veiled threat to dissolve parliament and force an election.

Senior party officials made it clear they would not permit this. Mr. Kaifu, widely dismissed in political circles as inept and indecisive, has kept a high rating in opinion polls.

A Kyodo survey released this week showed his popularity at a near-record level of 56.7 per cent, with the LDP's rating at a record 64.8 per cent.

For a long time Mr. Kaifu's public popularity was seen as his best ally in a re-election bid, plus the fact that polls regularly showed no other LDP leader approached his rating.

Party barons, however, apparently had second thoughts about backing him after the warning he might call a general election, described by commentators as a "hollow threat."

There was no indication of who the Takeshita Faction might put up to contest the election.

COLUMN

Thatcher to become a countess

WARSAW (R) — Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher declined to be drawn on reports in British newspapers that she is to join the aristocracy as hereditary countess. "I thought everyone in Britain knew that you can't be a countess in the House of Commons (Lower House of Parliament)," she told a news conference. "As I'm still a member of the House of Commons, the question of the Lords does not yet arise."

Mrs. Thatcher said in response to questions on the last day of her visit to Poland. The House of Lords is the unelected upper chamber of the British parliament. Mrs. Thatcher, ousted by John Major in a conservative Party leadership struggle last November, has said she does not intend to stand again for election to the House of Commons. Thatcher is expected to assume the title Countess of Fincley, the parliamentary constituency she has represented for 32 years, after the next general election, which is due by the middle of next year. The Times said Mrs. Thatcher had decided to accept the hereditary title rather than a life peerage. In either case she would be entitled to sit in the House of Lords. Major was said to have no objection to the ennoblement, which must be approved by Queen Elizabeth.

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